Dudley
CHRONICLE

Thursday, January 5, 2017 | Read by more than 62,000 people | Price when sold 60p

NEW YEAR HONOUR RECOGNITION FOR LOTS OF HARD WORK

Camilla Phillips MBE, centre, with Hope Centre colleagues

SPORT stars and community heroes from across Dudley borough were recognised in the Queen's New Year's Honours List.

Pamela Preston, of Dudley, aged 66, has been awarded a British Empire Medal for her services to The Samaritans over the past nine years.

Mrs Preston, who is also the deputy regional director for Samaritans, said: "I would like to accept this on behalf of all the volunteers and the work they do."

Halesowen cycling star Helen Scott has been honoured with an MBE for her success in Rio and services to cycling.

The 26-year-old stormed to victory in the B 1,000 metres time trial along with partner Sophie Thornhill. The pair set a Paralympic record time to take GB's sixth gold of the Games.

Camilla Phillips from Halesowen has been awarded an MBE for services to the community through The Hope Centre in Halesowen. She has dedicated herself to helping the residents of Halesowen, in particular the Highfields estate.

Following the closure of the Lighthouse project the 56-year-old was working on in 2009, she decided to volunteer full-time to keep the service going for the community, using the former Lighthouse building to form the Hope Centre in Andrew Road.

She said: "I was really shocked when I first found out – I thought someone was playing a joke on me. It's a huge honour.

"I may be the one receiving the award but it's really a team effort."

Dr David Hegarty, chairman of Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group has been awarded an MBE for services to primary care.

Dr Hegarty, also a partner at Wychbury Medical Practice in Stourbridge, said: "I believe this honour is attributable to the many committed people who I have had the pleasure of working with over the last 26 years."

Ian Powell, of Sedgley, former chairman of accountants PricewaterhouseCoopers has been made a Knights Batchelor. He led PwC through the financial crisis and helped it expand.

United want to buy Duncan Edwards artifacts

CONCERN AT SALE OF PLAYER RELICS

MEMORABILIA of Black Country football legend Duncan Edwards is set to be sold to Manchester United in a deal that could see it relocated from Dudley to Old Trafford.

The collection was based at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery in the town centre and was due be moved to Dudley Archives on Tipton Road amid the museum's closure last month due to money-saving cuts.

But now it has emerged that Edwards' former club Manchester United have been in talks with members of his family to buy the collection.

Sedgley UKIP councillor and West Midlands Euro MP Bill Etheridge has expressed concern that the memorabilia of a Dudley footballing hero could be lost to his home town.

He said council officers are working on a deal that could see parts of the collection loaned back to go on display at Dudley Archives, if the Premiership giants buy ownership of the collection devoted to one of their most famous players of the 1950s.

"The family have been very kind to allow the items to be on display to the public in Dudley for so long," he said. "However, it appears that they have now decided to sell the collection.

"I believe it is in the interests of the town to make some efforts to implore Manchester United to show some goodwill and allow some, if not all, of the items to remain on display here.

History

"The club have an excellent museum of their own but I am sure they realise how big a part Duncan Edwards has played in Dudley's history.

"It is important we do our bit to preserve his legacy in the town for future generations."

Mr Etheridge said he has written to Manchester United requesting a meeting to discuss the club's plans.

Report by Carl Jackson

Rose Cook, founder of the Duncan Edwards Foundation, said: "Duncan's mum, Sarah, always said she wanted his memorabilia to be in Dudley. Hopefully Manchester United will also see it this way, but regardless of what happens to the collection, Duncan's legacy will still be kept alive in Dudley."

United and England player Edwards is honoured with a statue in the town centre and a plaque at his former home near Priory Park. He was a part of Manchester United's famous Busby Babes side. He died aged 21 in 1958 of injuries sustained in the Munich air disaster, which claimed the lives of seven of his team mates, among 23 fatalities.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "We are in discussions with the family who own the Duncan Edwards collection about its future.

"Duncan Edwards's legacy is a very important part of our tourism and clearly we will do everything we can to continue to celebrate his life in Dudley."

The Duncan Edwards & Local Sporting Heroes Gallery opened at Dudley's museum in 2008 and includes his medals and 18 England caps.

Part of the display of memorabilia dedicated to Duncan Edwards which was on show in Dudley

HOSPITAL

Record numbers flocking to A&E

MORE than 600 patients have been attending the accident and emergency department at Russells Hall Hospital every day over the Christmas and New Year period.

The number arriving by ambulance is up 10 per cent on the same period a year ago.

The 'unprecedented' demand has heaped pressure on staff and left the hospital struggling to cope. Bosses are braced for an even busier time ahead as temperatures plummet.

The surge has prompted a desperate plea for people to only go to the hospital if they have a serious condition. It has also led to increased waiting times in A&E, with the hospital's four-hour performance, the national NHS target, taking a hit.

RETAIL

Sainsbury's checks out of Merry Hill

AFTER serving customers for more than 27 years, Sainsbury's at Merry Hill has shut its doors for the final time, with nearly 200 staff losing their jobs.

The tills are ringing no more and many of the shelves were stripped bare on the final day, Thursday, as customers and staff spoke of their sadness

Sainsbury's decision to pull out of the shopping centre, where it has had a presence since October 1989, was blamed on the store 'underperforming'. It resulted in the loss of 193 jobs.

CHARGES

Cost of parking increases at hall

A RISE in parking charges at Himley Hall and Park has been given the go-ahead by council chiefs.

An increase of 10p across the board will come into effect on the car parks at the popular attraction this month.

It will now cost £1.50 to park for up to two hours and £1.90 for more than two hours. The cost of coach parking will rise to £3.40.

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council has said that the car parking increases are necessary as they look to save £25 million over three years.

INSIDE

SQUIDS IN AT THE CHIPPIE

PAGE 9

COME AND EXPLORE OUR MASSIVE STORE
COME ALONG AND SEE OUR HUGE RANGE OF CARPETS AND FLOORING
N.D. WALTERS Carpets & Flooring
www.ndwalterscarpets.com
RUGS • VINYLS • KARNDEAN FLOORING • LAMINATE FLOORING • REAL WOOD FLOORING
KARNDEAN DESIGN SHOWROOM
LOTS OF REMNANTS TO CLEAR
HUGE DISCOUNTS ON AXMINSTER ROLL ENDS
Luxurious, warm carpets and durable, practical hard floors for your home
We can uplift and remove old carpet and will move heavy furniture.
88/90 Dudley Rd. Sedgley | Tel: 01902 883281
A FAMILY OWNED AND RUN BUSINESS FOR OVER 40 YEARS AND COUNTING

CONTENTS

MARK ANDREWS	6
LETTERS	7
PANTO REVIEW	10
THE FAST TICKET	27
TV GUIDE	30-32
PROPERTY	36
MOTORING	40
SPORT	47 & 48

CONTACT US

EDITORIAL:
Tel: 01384 353201/01384 353205
E-mail: dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:
Tel: 01902 319453
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC: Tel: 01902 319430
E-mail: picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk

ADVERTISING: Emma Parkes
Tel: 01384 353234
E-mail: emma.parkes@expressandstar.co.uk

PROPERTY: Colin Bailey
Tel: 01902 313131 ext 3731
E-mail: colin.bailey@expressandstar.co.uk

MOTORING: Liz Barratt
Tel: 01384 353244
E-mail: liz.barratt@expressandstar.co.uk

CLASSIFIED:
Tel: 01902 317878
E-mail: my-classified@expressandstar.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

Dudley CHRONICLE

51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES
Open Monday to Friday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm
www.yourchronicle.com

Addict threatened to Taser his mother

A DRUG addict who threatened to Taser his mother is starting a five-year prison sentence.

Richard Swift trashed his mother Gillian's home in Cobham Road, Halesowen.

The 25-year-old defendant ripped a bag containing his car keys from her with such force that she was left with a two-inch friction burn across her chest, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Police arriving at the scene in Halesowen had to swerve to avoid a crash Swift sped away from the cul-de-sac. But his escape was halted when a tyre on his vehicle was burst by a police stinger laid in the vehicle's pather by officers.

Prosecutor Walter Bealby said there had been an argument between mother and son in which Richard Swift had threatened her with the electro-shock stun weapon, which was disguised as a torch. "He said 'Don't make me Taser you'," said Mr Bealby.

At the time of the incident on May 16, 2015, the defendant was spending £40-a-day on cannabis and up to £300-a-week on cocaine.

He had been in possession of the Taser weapon for some time. He later said it was for personal protection in case he fell into debt to a violent drug dealer.

Police confirmed it was a working stun weapon.

Mr Simon Rippon, defending, told the court that his client had made a grave mistake and Richard Swift had described his mother 'as the most important person in his life'.

"He is a young man with a good work record who is loved, but has made a grave mistake at a time of serious personal upset. The circumstances were regrettable," said Mr Rippon.

"He was suffering from a depressive illness for which his use of illicit drugs was wholly inappropriate."

Swift's mother urged the court not to jail her son. But Richard Swift, of Meadow Lane, Newcastle-under-Lyme, was sent to jail for five years after pleading guilty to possession of a disguised firearm.

Patient sent home too soon is given payout

A GRANDMOTHER received a six-figure payout from the trust which runs Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital after she became seriously ill following discharge.

Margaret Rogers, aged 58, was left unable to talk and with no feeling in her limbs after initially being told she could leave hospital in 2007.

Solicitors taking up he case claim if she had been kept in hospital on antibiotics she would have gone on to make a full recovery.

On her first visit to Russells Hall Mrs Rogers underwent a CT scan and lumbar puncture and was diagnosed with bacterial meningitis. After being given antibiotics, she showed some signs of improvement and was discharged.

But her condition soon deteriorated and she was back in hospital at the start of October when it was discovered she had a brain abscess, her solicitors added.

Mrs Rogers was transferred to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham and underwent brain surgery, but lost the ability to talk, lost feeling in her limbs and suffered regular seizures.

Mobility

In August 2010, she was diagnosed with a tumour in her lower spine which was linked to her earlier issues. Her mobility was affected and her short-term memory was poor.

Mrs Rogers has now received a substantial compensation payout from the Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which has apologised. She will also receive annual payments to support her needs.

Following the settlement, Mrs Rogers said: "No amount of money will ever give me back the life I once had, but this settlement has allowed me and my family to achieve the very best quality of life I can."

Clare Langford, from Higgs and Sons solicitors, said: "It was our case that doctors should never have allowed Mrs Rogers home. Had she remained in hospital, she would have made a complete recovery."

Dr Paul Harrison, acting chief executive at Dudley Group of Hospitals, said: "We would like to express our sincere apologies to Mrs Rogers and her family.

"We can confirm an amicable compensation settlement has now been agreed."

Museum shuts down after 104 years

Keeper of geology Graham Worton and exhibitions officer Adrian Durkin unscrew the bust of Charles Darwin

DUDLEY'S town centre museum and art gallery has closed, the first high-profile victim as council cuts start to bite.

Dudley Museum and Art Gallery, in St James's Road, which opened in 1912, shut for the final time a few days before Christmas as part of a council move to save £150,000 a year. Four staff will be made redundant.

The museum's collections will be moved to Dudley Archives in Tipton Road, near the Black Country Living Museum.

Councillor Paul Brothwood, leader of UKIP on Dudley Council, described the move as 'extremely sad', adding: "It is a reflection of poor administration from Dudley Council over the years and wasted money, which is now really hurting frontline services."

The cash-strapped authority has made a swathe of cost-cutting measures this year following funding cuts from Government.

A petition aiming to save the museum was signed by more than 4,000. The venue had attracted around 35,000 people a year, said keeper of geology Graham Worton.

The museum originally opened as a gallery and art school in 1883 before it merged with the geological museum. It was officially opened on December 12, 1912.

A number of options are being considered for the building.

Tourism boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "I must stress that this is about the closure of a building, while looking at the best option to make sure that people still have access to exhibitions and displays which celebrate this borough's proud history."

● Letters – page 7

Public backing move lifting ball games ban at parks

PEOPLE in Dudley borough have resoundingly backed plans to remove historical restrictions on ball games at four parks.

Dudley Council consulted about ball games at three Ernest Stevens Trust parks – Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge, Stevens Park in Wollescote and Stevens Park in Quarry Bank.

Also included in the survey was Homer Hill Park in Cradley.

Eighty-eight per cent of those surveyed said lifting the ban would benefit the parks and those who visit them.

Following the consultation, which received almost 900 responses, historical covenants and conditions that technically prohibit ball games in the parks on Sundays and Good Fridays can be lifted.

The consultation also asked people if bowling greens and croquet lawns at the parks should be leased to the clubs or organisations that use them. More than 86 per cent agreed that they should.

The proposal to lease the greens to clubs is expected to save Dudley Council £48,000 a year in maintenance costs.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We are pleased that most people agree with our proposals to lift the technical restrictions on ball games as we want to encourage everyone to enjoy being active. We will now report the results to the Ernest Stevens Management Committee and to the Charities Commission in order to discuss the best way to manage these valued green spaces for the benefit of the whole community."

Rotary help sight charity coin in

MEMBERS of a rotary club have donated unwanted foreign coins to help raise cash for people with sight loss.

Kind-heart folk from Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary club have helped the Sedgley-based Beacon Centre with their latest fundraising effort.

The money was handed over to the Black Country charity at a Christmas lunch and will be used to help support people with sight loss in around the region.

The money was handed over by Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club President Brian Stokes. Club assistant secretary Sue Hannaford said: "We like to support the Beacon Centre wherever we can as it is one of a number of good causes that we support. We are happy to be of help to the charity."

Former scrap yard on sale for £250k

A FORMER scrap yard site between Lye and Quarry Bank has been put on the market for £250,000.

The one acre site, on Saltbrook Road, comprises of a partly surfaced overgrown yard. Dudley-based property experts Sellers are selling it.

The Fireplace Studio of Sedgley

WE ARE A VALOR CENTRE
SALE NOW ON
Don't miss it!
FIREPLACES FROM WORCESTER MARBLE, ELGIN & HALL, BE MODERN
The Fireplace Studio Alderwood Precinct, Northway, Sedgley DY3 3QY (next to the Cabin Public House)
01902 662796
OPENING TIMES: Mon - Sat 10-4pm Closed Sundays

Window and Door Repairs

Specialists in: Misty and broken glass units
Leaks, seals and drafts
Handles, hinges and locks - repaired or replaced • INSURANCE WORK - NO PROBLEM
Rectification of badly fitted installations
ALL WORK GUARANTEED
GUESTS
Over 25 years experience – COMPETITIVE PRICES!!!
For Free advice and quote call Mark Guest on
01384 456490 or 07976 227034

Footworks Chiropody
Ingrown Toe Nails Treated
Toe Nail Cutting and Trimming
Diabetic Foot Care
General Foot Care
Callus Reduction
Home Visit Service Also Available
01384 413444

KINGSWINFORD ORANGERIES & EXTENSIONS LTD
All types of building work undertaken
• ORANGERIES • EXTENTIONS • REFURBISHMENTS
• CONSERVATORIES • KITCHENS • NEW BUILDS
• RENOVATIONS • BATHROOMS
18 YEARS EXPERIENCE
For a FREE quote or Advive please call Stuart Porter
07968 951733 or
01384 620099
www.kingswinfordorangeriesandextentions.co.uk

OFFER

3m x 3.6m
This Orangerie £12,995
Offer includes
• Electrics
• Plastering
• One Electric Heater
• Fibreglass Roof

Emergency Denture Repairs
Over the Christmas Holiday
For emergency denture repairs over the Christmas Holiday period
Call Oliver on:
07701 067261
The Dental Shop
201-203 Halesowen Road, Old Hill, B64 6HE

Charges for burials set to increase in borough

THE cost of dying will increase across Dudley from the new year – with burial and cremation charges set to rise by almost 10 per cent.

It will cost £975 to bury an adult – a £72 rise – under the authority's new bereavement charges for 2017. A child burial will rise £14 to £194.

An adult cremation will increase from £752 to £812, with cremations for children rising by £7 to £97.

The burial or cremation of a stillborn baby, or a baby aged under one month, will remain free.

Dudley Council leader Pete Lowe admitted last year that funeral costs were expected to rise as the authority battles to meet its target of saving £25 million over the next three years.

The cost of memorials in cemeteries will increase by £20 to £276. A memorial on a baby's grave will now cost an extra £5 at £77. The council is aiming to make an extra half a million from bereavement services up to 2020.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, for planning and economic development, said: "We have already invested £1million to upgrade cremation facilities at Gornal Wood Crematorium and last year we opened a new cemetery in Dudley.

"The council will also need to spend in the region of £800,000 to upgrade facilities at Stourbridge Crematorium and we have a legal responsibility to take on the maintenance of closed churchyards. We have to look at ways of funding these improvements in such an essential service at such a difficult time for people."

3,000 sign leisure centres petition

PROTESTERS have reached a milestone in their petition against the closure of three leisure centres in the Dudley borough.

More than 3,000 signatures have been gained on paper and e-petitions by the Save Our Leisure Centres group. It means that the group could now push for a full council debate on the matter.

Dudley Council wants to demolish Halesowen Leisure Centre, Dudley Leisure Centre and The Crystal Leisure Centre, in Stourbridge, and then build two new facilities.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said it was likely to be another three years before plans came to fruition and that the public would be consulted 'at the appropriate time'.

Nativity proves real family affair

A NATIVITY at a Cradley church was a real family affair.

James and Becky Brookes and their seven-week-old son Samuel took on the roles of Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus at St Peter's Church.

Divided loyalties for footy-mad twins

Twins Max and Tom, aged five

FOR friends and family, recognising identical twins Tom and Max Donnelly can be tough. But there is one thing that tells them apart – their love for different football teams.

The boys celebrated their fifth birthdays on Christmas Eve. And the football-mad siblings' divided loyalties meant their parents Karl and Kate had to buy different replica kits – a Wolves strip for Tom and a Villa one for Max. Their cake was a specially-designed half-and-half affair.

Tom and Max's club choices mirror their parents' own division, with Brummie Karl a Villa fan and 31-year-old nurse Kate coming from Wolves stock.

The twins' older brother Jack, seven, has nailed his flag to the Villa mast like his father. Mr Donnelly, aged 33, a firefighter in Dudley, said: "It just happened really – one sided with me and the Villa then the other one has gone over to the dark side. Then when it came to Christmas one of them asked for the Wolves home and away kits and the other asked for home and away kits for Villa.

A cake of two halves for the brothers

"Now their mum is having to take Tom to a Wolves match in the new year with her dad and I'll take Max to Villa with my dad who's also a Villa fan. I think [Tom and Max] both enjoy winding each other up about it – especially as they've got older."

Mr Donnelly, of Gornal, added: "We've actually got four sets of twins in the family and Tom and Max have nine-week-old twin cousins – Zachary and Harry.

"On their birthday we got lovely photos of the twins each holding one of their cousins.

"And we've been winding up [the cousins'] dad – who is a big Wolves fan as well – saying they're going to end up with one supporting Villa and one Wolves like ours."

Karl added: "I'm going to try and get Tom to change to the better side when he's a bit older, but I think he likes the attention when he's out with his brother and they get asked who they support."

On the road to recovery after drink-drive ordeal

A FATHER who feared he would never walk again following a serious car crash while over the drink-drive limit is battling his way back to recovery.

Lee Isherwood was left completely paralysed down the right side of his body and could not remember who he was when he awoke from a coma.

The 29-year-old from Dudley was thrown from the driver's seat onto the road after smashing into a parked car.

He was rushed to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham where he went into intensive care and it was not known whether he would walk again.

It has been a long and difficult road back towards recovery and Lee, who has had to undergo gruelling rehabilitation sessions, can now walk unaided almost three years on.

He was on his way to a party with two friends where he was due to DJ, on Mother's Day, in 2014, when he lost control of his car on Burton Road, Dudley.

Reflect

His two friends walked away unharmed but the situation was much more serious for the driver who was slightly over the drink-drive limit at the time.

Mr Isherwood, who has three young children aged seven, five and three has had a long time to reflect on the events of the night that changed his life so dramatically.

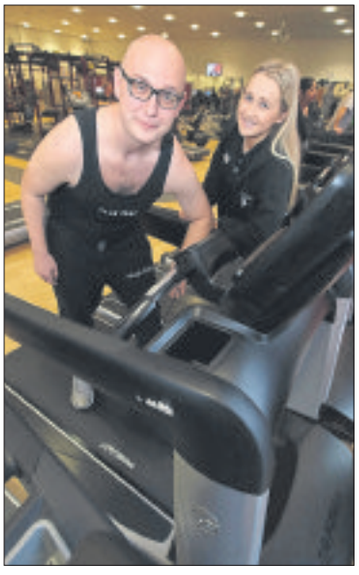
He says he is the embodiment of what can happen to anyone who decided to get behind the wheel over the limit.

He spoke candidly about the mistake he made in getting behind the wheel that night and knows he has paid the price. "I wouldn't wish what I've gone through on my worst enemy but it's my own fault for drinking and I'm trying to raise as much awareness as possible," he said.

"It's just not worth the risk and puts others in danger too. I had two passengers in the car but they walked away unharmed and I'm so glad that it was just me that got hurt.

"Apart from being grateful to be alive I'm so motivated to get well as my three kids have lost out on so much. I'm putting myself through the pain barrier for them as much as me." Police decided not to take action against Mr Isherwood as no-one else was hurt and the severity of his injuries meant he has not been able to drive since.

Doctors said Lee may not walk again after the crash



Battling back to fitness with Natasha Jackson's help

He has been undergoing rehabilitation sessions at Portway Lifestyle Centre in Oldbury and, although his recovery is far from easy, he is returning to something like his old self.

He said: "My weekly visits to Portway have become an essential part of my recovery and I absolutely love it. It's been a really tough year, with lots of highs and lows, but week in, week out I see minor improvements.

"To start with I only had partial use of my left arm on that side, but the leg is stronger now too and I can walk on my own and my co-ordination and range of mobility is much better, plus I'm slowly getting my old confidence back. Because my head trauma was so severe I had to re-teach my brain to function.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Company lifts top customer award

A HOME lift company has won a top customer service award.

Stiltz Lifts, located on the Pensnett Estate in Kingswinford, won the Team of the Year at the British Healthcare Trades Association (BHTA) awards.

It was voted for by consumers who complete and return feedback cards throughout the year.

The award was accepted by Stiltz Lifts Chairman Mike Lord and Trade Sales Manager (UK) Gino Farruggio at the ceremony held at Broadgate in Bishopsgate, London, hosted by TV personality Penny Smith.

Green light for apartments plan

PLANNERS have given the go-ahead for 14 apartments to be built on land near Halesowen town centre.

The site will be in two separate blocks. Ech apartment will have two bedrooms and two bathrooms. Residential parking will also be included.

It will be situated next door to the Travelodge Hotel development on Whitehall Road. he site is currently under offer for £300,000 with property company Westbridge & Co.

Plans for a Travelodge and KFC that created a total of 66 jobs were given the green light in 2010.

Empty old Co-Op on rental market

A FORMER Co-Op supermarket in Dudley has been put on the market to let after standing empty for more than two years.

The Fisher Street building is opposite Dudley Bus Station, next to the Churchill Shopping Centre.

It has shared access with Farmfoods and pedestrian access from both Birmingham Street and Birdcage Walk.

Offers to let are invited for the site, which is on the market with commercial property company Innes England.

MP angry at hospital parking charge income

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has hit out over the money made by hospital parking charges last year.

Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust made £455,000 in 2015-16.

Mr Austin said: "I think the charges are outrageous. It's terrible that we have to pay so much when going for treatment or visiting relatives."

Dr Paul Harrison, trust acting chief executive, said funds were used towards maintaining the car parks and delivering 24-hour CCTV.

Singing group recruit

A BLACK Country choir is looking for new singers to boost its ranks.

Rehearsals for Viva Musica take place at Ham Dingle Primary School in Pedmore, Stourbridge and an open evening is taking place on January 17, from 7.30pm. For more details, visit www.viva-musica.co.uk

CHOICE WINDOWS
WHY PAY MORE for YOUR REPLACEMENT WINDOWS?
We are a small family business established since 1990. With NO showrooms, salesmen or other costly overheads.
We can offer very competitive prices on
• uPVC replacement windows • Doors
• Porches • Patio's and Conservatories
ONE WINDOW ORDERS WELCOME
• High Security Locking • Internal Glazing
• No Deposit • 10 Year Guarantee
FENSA
CALL PHIL
01384 352535
07973 114553
www.choicewindowsdudley.co.uk

Family Run Est since 1978
Able & Bromley Carpets / Beds
SOFAS, VINYLS, LAMINATES, STAIRLIFTS
WE DO WHAT OTHER CARPET FIRMS WON'T.
Help move heavy furniture, up lift plus take away old carpets FREE OF CHARGE
Shave doors. Bed assemble and disposal.
DISABLED? OAP? CAN'T GET OUT?
or anyone who just needs extra help!
Can't come to us, we'll come to YOU
We will bring 100s of carpet samples sofa and bed brochures to your door
Electric Chairs From £899
Electric Beds From £549
Heavy Domestic Saxonys from £6.99 sq yd was £14.99
Lola Leather Suite 3 + 2 Recliner in Black or Brown £699
Divan Beds Singles from £92 Double from £142
Bleach cleanable carpets from £3.99 sq yd
PLUS... UP TO 75% OFF many instore items!
We will beat your BIG Superstores
www.ablecarpets.co.uk
Terms & conditions apply
Free quotes and Planning
Warehouse Unit, D Dormston Trading Est., Burton Road, Gornal DY1 3TD
OPEN: MON-SAT 9.30-5.00
DUDLEY SEDGLEY GORNAL COSELEY
WOMBOURNE HIMLEY KINGSWINFORD NETHERTON
OPEN SUNDAYS 10am-3pm
FREE FITTING from our Premier Range over 200 rolls in stock
FREEPHONE 0800 0853747
COVERS ALL AREAS
Adrian Bromley 01902 880541

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

FLICKING idly through The Boys' Book of Airfix. Watching the DVD of Swallows and Amazons. Sipping a chilled cocktail of sloe gin and bubbly. Whatever they tell you, the real joy of presents is in the receiving.

AN old friend and I usually exchange drinkable Xmas gifts so I was surprised to get two parcels from him this year, one containing a belt with a particularly fiddly and irritating buckle. A note explained: "I bought two of these and they are rubbish, so you can have one." It is, as they say, the thought that counts.

THE year ends, as it began, with a furious row about how much foreign aid Britain sends to relatively wealthy countries or states run by despots. Here's a simple way forward. Let's agree that not a penny of UK aid goes to any country with either a nuclear industry or a space programme. As for the world's dictators who seem to use our money to buy themselves huge limousines, let's at least cut out the middle men and send the money directly to Mercedes-Benz.

AT last, an optimist in the ranks of the elite breaks cover. Did you not punch the air with joy to hear the former Bank of England Governor, Lord Mervyn King, speaking of the good things that leaving the EU will bring? While not dismissing the difficulties, he declared: "There are many opportunities and I think we should look at it in a much more self-confident way than either side is approaching it at present. Being out of what is a pretty unsuccessful European Union – particularly in the economic sense – gives us opportunities as well as obviously great political difficulties." Too many pundits assume that Britain is a spent force which needs the EU for support. The reverse is true. Look around you. Britain has a workforce of 32 million and the fifth biggest economy in the world. We are a huge, busy and potent nation whose power and influence have been limited by a failed 40-year experiment in being governed from Brussels. As that nice Mr Blair put it, things can only get better. And this time it's true.

PS: Just between you and me, I still fear that when we are finally declared to be Out of the EU, it will look suspiciously like In.

'TIS the season to flog furniture. Here's a party game designed to make the most of those infuriating, interminable end-of-year adverts for sideboards, carpets and whatever. Taking turns, each player has 30 seconds with the TV remote-control. The aim, switching between the commercial-TV ad breaks, is to see how many times you can catch the word "sofa."

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

New homes near hospital get go-ahead

PLANS to build 130 new homes close to Russells Hall Hospital have been approved, despite more than 100 objections.

The houses will be built on vacant land behind the hospital on the Russells Hall estate, despite fears over further parking congestion and the impact on wildlife, including badgers.

Dudley Council's planning chiefs felt that the benefits – such as affordable housing – outweighed the disadvantages with the project, e a partnership between the council and housing developer Keepmoat.

A total of 105 letters of objection were handed into the authority, while a petition against the plans received 69 signatures. Dudley North MP Ian Austin had also raised concerns.

The original plans have been altered following concerns over access, now incorporating two entrances.

Councillor Keiran Casey, vice-chairman of the development control committee, said: "The application has its advantages and disadvantages. Affordable housing will be delivered, which is the biggest benefit. The current land doesn't really have a purpose. I understand the concerns, but from my personal opinion a lot of work has been done to address the access issue. The benefits outweigh the disadvantages."

Colin Knipe, on behalf of residents, said: "The development will lead to danger to pedestrians, even more traffic chaos and will have an adverse effect on shops. There hasn't been any consideration about the impact that the 350 to 400 new occupants will have on local services."

Doll's house gift raises smiles after break-in

By Carl Jackson

A DELIGHTFUL doll's house has brought smiles back to the faces of staff at a charity shop that was hit be a break-in.

The Mary Stevens Shop in Wordsley was targeted by thieves who took a haul of 60 bags full of charity donations in November.

Since then donations have poured in as the community rallied around the hospice charity shop.

A wide range of items were dropped off from clothes to books, especially after The Crestwood School put out its own appeal which led to many more donations.

But the most generous was a spectacularly detailed doll's house given up by 85-year-old Edie Simpson. whose daughter Susan Patterson volunteers at the charity shop.

Ms Simpson had the honour of announcing the Christmas raffle winners, and the family who walked away with the house were so thrilled they bought her a 'thank you' present and made a sizeable cash donation to the charity.

Shop manager Dawn Spencer said: "Out of something very bad has come something very good. The community spirit and support has just been amazing. We have had some phenomenal donations.

"It has been very heart-warming, there have been so many tearful moments with people coming in and doing lovely things."

Staff telephoned the lucky winners although some who had bought tickets popped in to the shop on the day out or curiosity to hear who had won, such has been the interest.

Tickets

Ms Spencer said they shop had sold 700 tickets for the annual festive raffle, more than ten times the number sold the previous year.

Staff were left in shock following the break-in in November when a garage used to store donations was raided.

Staff confirmed they would not be using the unit for storage again.

Earlier this year the charity had launched its biggest ever fundraising drive to raise £3 million to revamp the hospice on Hagley Road.

The redevelopment would see the existing unit extended and remodelled to include new treatment rooms, state-of-the-art equipment, improved child bereavement and consultation facilities, and better education facilities. A family apartment will allow relatives to stay at the hospice to be close to loved ones at critical times.

Dolls house donor Edie Simpson with Wordsley's Mary Stevens Shop manager Dawn Spencer

MPs bemoan closure of museum

MPS from across the political divide have united in their dismay over the closure of Dudley's landmark museum.

Both Tory Mike Wood and Labour's Ian Austin have bemoaned the closure of the venue which has been a mainstay of Dudley town centre since 1912. Museum artefacts will be moving to a new site at Dudley Archives in the new year.

The museum was closed by Dudley Council to save £150,000 a year in the wake of government funding cuts.

Dudley North MP Mr Austin said: "I've spent many happy hours in the museum over the years, looking at the various displays. It's very sad to see Dudley losing a museum and art gallery after so many years.

"I also demanded the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government explain why government cutbacks are hitting Dudley so hard and affecting popular local attractions like these."

Mr Wood, for Dudley South, said the closure of the museum would be a loss to the town centre.

"Moving it out of the town centre and its traditional setting will be a loss to Dudley town centre,"he said. "But we have got to hope it can have a successful future down at the archives."

Alcoholic is sent to jail for latest of many thefts

AN ALCOHOLIC thief with a 'dreadful' record of 134 previous convictions has been jailed for nine months after stealing from a BT van in Dudley.

Brindley Cleaver, aged 42, smashed the back window of the vehicle in Tenacre Lane, Dudley, and stole a router among other items. He was traced via his DNA from blood found on a box.

He carried out the theft some time between May 27 and 31 this year, breaching a suspended sentence.

Prosecutor Mr Alexander Barnfield told Wolverhampton Crown Court: "He has a lengthy record, has amassed 134 convictions, mostly for offences of dishonesty.

"When he committed this offence he was subject of a suspended sentence order. He was given a sentence of 24 months in prison suspended for two years in 2014."

Cleaver, of Nethergate, Upper Gornal, admitted to theft from a motor vehicle and breach of a suspended sentence.

Mr Ekwall Tiwana, defending, said: "He had stayed out of trouble for a considerable period of time. Unfortunately his sister and mother died in quick succession and he started drinking again. He went back to his old ways due to depression. He has engaged for help from the Samaritans.

"Prison has been hard for him. He saw the riots in Winson Green. He stayed away from the trouble but it still affected him."

Judge John Wait told Cleaver: "You have an absolutely dreadful record."

Join mayor on walk for charities

THE Mayor of Dudley is inviting people to take part in his charity Winter Walk this month.

Anyone can join in the walk on Sunday, January 22, which will start and finish at the Bonded Warehouse in Stourbridge, taking a seven mile route in the Prestwood area along the canal.

Register by emailing suzylimesrdc@hotmail.co.uk for a sponsorship form or calling 07412 531924. Entry is £1.

Mayor Councillor Mohammed Hanif said: "Lots of people start the new year with renewed enthusiasm to get fitter and slimmer. I hope that people will come on the sponsored walk to help kick start their fitness campaigns and help raise money for three worthy charities."

Profits from the walk will be donated to the mayor's chosen charities.

GP in court over 10 alleged sex offences

A DUDLEY GP has appeared before Walsall magistrates charged with 10 sexual assaults against three patients.

Dr Jaswant Rathore, aged 59, of Ploughmans Walk, Wall Heath, made no plea. The case was sent to Wolverhampton Crown Court on January 20.

Advertisement

Has Your Double Glazing Steamed Up?

Established for over a decade Cloudy2Clear windows have become a leading company for glass replacement. Issues with double glazing can often be gradual and may only be noticed during a clear sunny day or during the winter. A failed glass unit may no longer provide you with the protection you need or be energy efficient. Why not spend a few minutes checking your home to see if you have any failed double glazing?
If you act now you can avoid these problems.

Now, you may think you need to replace the whole window including the frames and all the hardware, however Cloudy2Clear have come up with a simple and cost saving solution… Just replace the glass!!

If you see condensation in your windows just visit our website or give us a call on **0800 61 21 118**. We will send out our highly experienced engineers for a free no obligation quote. **A Cloudy2Clear quote takes on average no longer than 20 minutes**. Once the quote is completed, we will sit down with you and explain the problem and tell you how we can fix it. With years of experience Cloudy2Clear have a wealth of knowledge and are recognised as a Which Trusted Trader, **plus our work is backed by an industry leading 25 year guarantee**. Cloudy2Clear also replace faulty locks handles and hinges on all windows and doors.

Your friendly local Cloudy2Clear specialist is Brian Stanley and he services Dudley & the surrounding areas.

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118**.

"Cloudy2Clear GUARANTEE All Customers That An Average Quote Will Take No Longer Than 20 MINS!!!"

Cloudy2Clear Windows... Service With A Smile!

Cloudy2Clear Are A... Which? Trusted Trader

All Glazing Backed By Our 25 YEAR GUARANTEE

Priority Freephone 0800 61 21 118

www.cloudy2clear.com

Broken Or Damaged Windows? Faulty Locks, Handles, Hinges?

Boy locked up for role in robbery beside canal

A 16-year-old who took part in a terrifying armed robbery of a couple beside a canal in Netherton has been sentenced to three years in youth custody.

The young couple's ordeal lasted over an hour after the defendant and three other men approached them while they were taking shelter from rain under a bridge and threatened them with what appeared to be a gun.

The incident on November 23 began when the male victim was ordered to hand over his phone. He was kicked and hit with the butt of a handgun, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

They discovered that he had keys to a motorbike and forced him to reveal where the machine was parked. They also took his PIN number and phone.

They theatened his girlfriend with the gun. "At one point the barrel was touching her forehead," said Miss Michelle Heeley, prosecuting.

She was forced to hand over her iPhone, PIN number and £20 cash. One of the group went to a cash machine and withdrew £250 but the teenager was later identified via a camera at the cash machine.

Defending the youth, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, Mr William Dudley argued that it could not be proved whether or not it was an imitation gun and said his client was subjected to 'peer group pressure'.

Judge Simon Ward passed a sentence of three years detention for two offences of robbery and one of possession of an imitation firearm which the youth, now aged 16, had admitted.

Have your say on dementia services

DUDLEY Council's dementia gateway service is encouraging people who have dementia, their family members and carers to give their views on local dementia care.

The Department of Health has launched the first phase of its Dementia 2020 Citizens' Engagement Programme. Councillor Qadar Zada, cabinet member for adult social care, said: "It is important that we make sure our services for people with dementia, and for their carers and family, are the right services which respond to the needs and wants of local people. I encourage anyone touched by dementia to get involved."

Visit consultations.dh.gov.uk/dementia/care-support-and-awareness or call (01384) 813600/813315.

Yoga studio gets the green light

PLANNERS have given the go ahead for an empty building near Stourbridge to be turned into a yoga studio.

The studio at Lye Business Centre, Enterprise Drive, will provide four full-time and ten part-time jobs.

Pub owners clad to see return to old look

Ben Parkes at the Chapel House

A COMMUNITY pub has returned to its look of nearly 200 years ago – after a revamp uncovered stunning hidden stonework.

The Chapel House, which has served the people of Gornal since 1830, reopened in August under new a team management of James Stevens and his partner Rachel Slater, Katie Ann Round and her partner Ben Parkes.

Work to update the exterior revealed a beautiful sandstone frontage which was hidden behind modern cladding. Mr Stevens says the renovated look has delighted punters – and he himself is happy with the find, which he labelled 'a happy accident'.

After three months Holdens Brewery decided they wanted to revamp the pub's exterior and after chipping a bit of the front cladding away uncovered the stunning stonework underneath,

Mr Stevens said: "When they chipped a little bit off they found this fantastic Gornal sandstone which looks beautiful.

"Having knocked a bit off we got very excited. We've gone around the pub and repointed the front and side and the exposed stone looks beautiful - just how it should be.

"It's from the quarry about 500-metres away down the road.

"You see a lot of buildings like this in Gornal up towards Sedgley but I didn't realise the Chapel House was one of them – and now I think we're the only commercial building in Gornal that uses the original stone."

Mr Stevens said business had really picked up since taking over the pub and he hoped it can continue to serve its community.

Glassboys face fine over Cup match flare

STOURBRIDGE FC could be facing a fine after a flare was thrown onto the pitch during the club's historic FA Cup win over Northampton Town.

The Glassboys have been reported to the Football Association (FA) after the flare was thrown during the celebrations following Jack Duggan's winning goal.

It brings a sour note to what was one of the biggest wins in the club's history and secured them a place in the third round of the FA Cup for the first time.

Stourbridge chairman Andy Pountey warned any fans who bring flares to the War Memorial Ground in future will be banned.

The club has previously been warned about flares and smoke bombs.

A statement from Mr Poutney on the club's website said: "Bringing any pyrotechnic device into a football stadium in the UK is a criminal offence; this is clearly stated in our Ground Regulations document.

"Sadly, we have seen similar incidents of this nature occur before. Following each of these, we were warned about our future conduct by the FA, but fortunately escaped any further action at the time.

Implications

"Despite previous warnings to supporters, the actions of one individual could have implications for the whole of the football club, and how the FA will decide on this occasion we don't know.

"We can assure you that if any other supporter lets a flare off at any of our games going forward they will banned indefinitely.

"We can also assure you that if we find out who the individual was that let the flare off on December 13 they will also be treated in the same manner.

"It's hard enough running the club without having to deal with this stupidity, so please just come along, have a great day and don't ruin it for everyone else."

The Glassboys netted £27,000 in prize money for getting through to the third round and having to give some of it back in the form of a fine would be a crushing blow, particularly as funding is so crucial at non-league level.

Stour take on Wycombe Wanderers in the next round. A win against the League One club on January 7 would see the Glassboys receive a further windfall of more than £70,000.

Gardeners celebrate charity success

Volunteers celebrate as Hawbush Community Gardens is granted charitable status by the Charity Commission

RESIDENTS and volunteers are celebrating after a picturesque community garden was granted charitable status.

Hawbush Community Gardens was awarded the title after successfully applying to the Charity Commission.

Residents can use allotments at the Brierley Hill facility which is looked after by its users.

The garden space was granted charity status ahead of Local Charity Day on December 16, which celebrates charity work in communities.

Hawbush Community Gardens is an oasis tucked into the Hawbush estate, where over the past few years residents and volunteers have tended the site.

They have created a community allotment space alongside a handful of private allotments. The facility also offers indoor space for different types of activities that bring the community together. The group has worked with Dudley Council for Voluntary Service on gaining charitable status.

Michelle Betteridge, gardens trustee, said: "We are absolutely delighted to achieve charity status and thank Dudley CVS who have been a huge support."

Hawbush Community Gardens is now planning to run a variety of outdoor and indoor projects on the site in 2017.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Leisure centres offer special deals

DUDLEY Council is encouraging people to get fit in 2017 with special membership offers available at borough leisure centres until January 31.

It enables people aged 16 and over to take out an annual membership for just £200, a saving of over £150, and there is a junior offer.

Equivalent to £16.67 per month, it includes unlimited use of Lifestyles gyms, swimming, fitness classes, badminton and squash (off-peak) and the running track at The Dell Stadium. For more information contact (01384) 812800 or visit dudley.gov.uk/sport

Firm boost for children's hospital

BRIERLEY Hill-based Commercial Express, has handed over £7,500 to its nominated charity, Birmingham Children's Hospital, following a year of fundraising.

The managing general agent managed held a variety of fundraisers, such as team member Vicky Copper abseiling down the One Snowhill building in Birmingham, team football matches, quiz nights, sponsored walks, a corporate golf day and a charity tuck shop in their offices.

They will raise money for the hospital again this year.

Delays expected from lane closure

DRIVERS are facing disruption on one of Dudley's busiest roads with a lane closure to be in place for a month while gas work takes place.

The lane will be shut on Tipton Road towards the Castle Gate Island and was due to close this week.

It means traffic will be filtered into one lane on the road passing the Black Country Living Museum and is likely to lead to delays at the busy roundabout which links with Birmingham Road, the A459 and A461.

Violin star's new date for his arena concert

ANDRÉ Rieu has rescheduled his December concert in Birmingham, which had to be cancelled after a long-term member of the Johann Strauss Orchestra became seriously ill.

The Dutch violinist and his easy listening orchestra will now play the Genting Arena, at the NEC, on March 22.

Tickets remain valid for the new date but those who cannot attend the rescheduled concert can get a full refund from the point of sale.

Fly to Transylvania

ROMANIAN airline Blue Air has launched a three-times-a-week service from Birmingham to Cluj-Napoca, the country's second largest city, located in Transylvania.

Blue Air is now flying from Birmingham to Cluj-Napoca on Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday.

BLINDS
DUDLEY - www.blind-deals.co.uk
BEST DEAL! 3 child safe verticals £120 one per household offer
NO OBLIGATION HOME QUOTE
ALL PRICES INCLUDE FREE MEASURE & FITTING
HUGE CHOICE OF POPULAR FABRICS & GENEROUS SIZE RESTRICTIONS
CALL FREE contact your local advisor to see our fabric range & other available deals
0800 0214266

Lifestyle Windows
Trading over 30 years OF KINGSWINFORD
"Tradsmen not Salesmen"
• Windows
• Doors
• Conservatories
• Fascias
• Guttering
• 10,000 local installations available for viewing - please ask
• Phone for a free quote and speak to Dave or Mark - deal direct with the owners
• No sales reps, no sub contractors
FENSA
Call us to find out why so many people choose Lifestyle Windows 01384 295855
or visit our website www.lifestylewindows.com
Kingswinford Fascias Part of the Windows Group
Kingswinford Window Doctor 2015 Range of Doors Now Available

• SELL • REPAIR • UNLOCK
NEW MOBILE PHONE SHOP AND REPAIR CENTRE
20% OFF all accessories
• All phone screens and laptops repaired on site
• Fast, efficient and reliable same day service
• We sell new and used mobile phones
• Screens
• Cases
• Phone chargers
• Accessories
• Sim cards
• Top ups
GB PHONES GREAT BRIDGE
58 GREAT BRIDGE, TIPTON DY4 7EW 0121 557 8899
• SELL • REPAIR • UNLOCK

IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Shutting shop on spirit of Christmas

THERE is a great story about legendary Wolverhampton shopkeeper William Snape, who kept the famous tea and coffee emporium opposite this newspaper's office in Queen Street.

One Christmas Eve, sometime around the late 19th century, Mr Snape's assistant, a young boy called Albert, asked if there would be any chance of finishing work early. It was Christmas after all.

Mr Snape paused for thought, and asked the youngster if everywhere was tidy? Albert insisted it was.

"I don't think so," replied the boss as he took a flying kick at a bag of coffee beans, scattering them all over the floor.

Now I'm sure we're all glad those sort of employment practices are a thing of the past. However, I can't help but think that a bit of no-nonsense Victorian discipline wouldn't go amiss on a shop assistant I encountered over Christmas.

Now, admittedly 5.53pm on Christmas Eve is a bit last-minute. Well last seven minutes actually, but you get the point. However, the sign in the window said the shop – a very well-known high street retailer – would be open until 6pm, so why would you doubt it?

Eventually, a grey-haired lady came to the door with the greeting: "What's the problem?"

I pointed to the sign saying open until 6pm, and she replied: "You don't want to take any notice of that, it's Christmas Eve." I suggested it might be a good idea to advertise the correct opening times, and that it was rather poor service.

Grey-haired lady replied: "It's Christmas Eve, we've got families to be with, so on yer bike." And a happy new year to you, madam.

❒ ❒ ❒

CONGRATULATIONS to Stourbridge FC for making football history as the lowest-ranked club to reach the third-round of the FA Cup.

Manager Gary Hackett has criticised the major broadcasters for overlooking his team's achievement, prompting optician Mark Moran to contact me with a solution.

"Can you run a story about a Stourbridge-born optician who is offering free specs to BBC staff to help correct their short-sightedness?" he asks.

He suggests rose-tinted lenses for Alan Shearer, Gary Linker and Ian Wright over the way they wax lyrical about big-money sides like Chelsea.

❒ ❒ ❒

SPRING will see the launch of the new 12-sided £1 coin, designed by Walsall schoolboy David Pearce, and the old coin will cease to be legal tender in October.

Now have a look through your change. How many shiny new £1 coins are there that have that have been minted in the past year or so? And they will all be melted down by the autumn. It's a good thing the country is awash with money, isn't it?

Reflected Glory by Sue Cutler

Southwark Cathedral by Craig Walton

Windmill by Kevin Howell

Snap happy? Try life through a lens

JUDITH HAWKINS takes a look at the winning shots by Hagley Camera Club members

A CAMERA club has rewarded its members for their picture perfect work and is calling on new people to get involved.

Hagley Camera Club offers tuition to those wishing to improve their skills behind the lens, as well as recognising the best snaps taken by its members in a series of competitions held across the year.

The club's variety of events enables attendees to both build upon their own photographic abilities and to learn more from others in the group, including through practical sessions, member presentations and talks from visiting lecturers.

Chair of the club, Richard Harding, said: "We're a little different from other camera clubs in that we don't categorise members by ability level, and aim to be inclusive of all.

Digital

"We run a mix of practical, digital editing, tuition, lecture, critique and competition evenings throughout the year."

Throughout the year members have had the chance to submit their best three shots into five competitions held by the club, accruing points for their entries which are then totted up to find an overall winner for the entire year.

Members are allowed to submit up to three entries per competition, and there were a total of five competitions during the year. Points are awarded for the top five.

Securing first place for the year was Craig Walton, whose striking image of Southwark Cathedral's stunning ceiling certainly shows off his considerable photographic skills.

Phil Homer was a worthy second, and it is clear to see why he scored so highly with his amusing image of a boy reading an old newspaper.

One of the photographs from the Hagley club members – Abreast of the News by Phil Homer

Taking third place was Kevin Howell, with his perfectly captured and serene picture of a windmill, while chair Richard Harding achieved fourth and should be particularly proud of his atmospheric picture of the 'Lady in the Lake'.

In fifth place was Sue Cutler, a glimpse of whom can be seen in her own photograph thanks to her effective use of the reflection in a vintage aeroplane's propellers.

Despite the name, the photographic club is actually based in Wordsley, at meets at Holy Trinity Church Hall every Tuesday at 8pm.

The first meeting of the New Year will be held this Tuesday, January 10, where attendees will be able to explore any new camera kit Santa might have brought them for Christmas.

A practical skills evening will take place the following week on January 17, and there will be a 'get to know your camera' event held two weeks later on January 24.

"This will be ideal for new members looking to understand a bit more about photography and their cameras to come and check us out," added Mr Harding.

Tutorials

More details, including a selection of photos taken by members, are available online at http://www.hagleycameraclub.co.uk/ or by searching for 'Hagley Camera Club' on Facebook.

Annual membership is just £20, with a further fee of £3 per attended meeting. 'Specialist' meetings may cost a little more and will be advised in advance.

The club also has lots of useful tips and tutorials written by its members, which are free to download from its website.

Lady of the Lake by Richard Harding

Concept BLINDS
UP TO 50% OFF ALL BLINDS
Vertical & Roller Blinds
New season fabrics now available
Child Safety Features Fitted Free of Charge
5 YEAR GUARANTEE
Also available
• Romans • Pleated
• Conservatory Roof Blinds
• Wood Venetians
• Venetian Blinds
• Curved Tracks for Bay Windows
FREE Fitting on all blinds
FREEPHONE 0800 5875279
Open Seven Days a Week
0121 429 3169
FREE Home Quote. FAST Delivery

There is one small job that you have been meaning to do for years -
Make Your Will
Only £90.00 (no VAT to pay)
Per person for couples, Mirror Wills.
Single Wills £95.00 (no VAT to pay)
A home visit at a convenient time
For information and appointment call
0845 678 7010
Mobile: 07771 992717
Wills, Trusts, Lasting Powers of Attorney, Will Storage, Estate Planning and Guardianship Trusts
Members of the Society of Will Writers
Goodwills Legal Services Ltd
www.goodwillsmidlands.co.uk

Village D.I.Y. & Electrical
Your One Stop Hardware Shop
END OF LINE STOCK CLEARANCE
LOW PRICE GUARANTEE.
ALL STOCK MUST BE SOLD
48 Louise Street, Lower Gornal, DY3 2UB
01384 931002/07944 690455
info@tiptonelectronics.com
www.tiptonelectronics.com

Halesowen Fireplaces
AT THE HEART OF YOUR HOME
Complete Fireplace Packages from £499
(including fire)
STORAGE HEATERS NOW IN STOCK
For a range of Gas and Electric Fires and Surrounds visit our showroom (opposite Tyre City on Long Lane)
Telephone 0121 559 9985
Like us on facebook.
Unit 14, Long Lane Trading Estate, Long Lane, Halesowen B62 9LD
www.halesowenfireplaces.co.uk

Museum move to Archives is already a dud

WHO'S Khurshid Ahmed kidding? He's certainly put the 'Dud' in Dudley with the move of Dudley Museum to the archives building.

Any self-respecting town takes a museum for granted in their town centre.

The Dudley Archives building is way out of the town centre on Tipton Road, so the likelihood of picking up any passing trade (as Wolverhampton Art Gallery does in droves) is zero.

So that means only those with the clear intention of visiting will make it down there.

Next problem, if they do arrive, is parking. If you visit Dudley Archives even mid-week, you'll be hard pushed to find a space. Visitors will be forced to double-park and ask for a token to Black Country Living Museum car park. Good luck with that on a busy day.

The much-vaunted 'improved disabled access' is a non-starter too as the museum will be located on the first floor and there's only a goods lift.

They're expecting to run an exhibition programme with only one specialist person. They've fired the other four staff that worked at the museum.

Archives was built and expensively equipped with temperature controlled shelving precisely, as the name suggests, for storing archive documents – not for museum artefacts.

Once in storage the artefacts are unlikely ever to be shown again.

Expect a great deal of hot air and window-dressing when the 'grand new museum' is unveiled to the world.

Yet scratch beneath the surface and you'll find what it really is...a dud.

MARTIN JONES
Sedgley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Give us truth about the centres

MANY years ago, buildings were built in Dudley town centre that are still standing.

Too many to mention but the old 'Hen and Chickens pub' is one.

For the ignorant, that is on the corner of Castle Street and New Street. There are also the council buildings and the museum (for some reason the council are closing that, despite the fact that it belongs to residents).

Back to the leisure centres; these have been built in my lifetime, so their decline questions the brains who gave permission for them to be built.

Were they built to poor designs?

Was the quality of the materials used inferior?

Was the standard of workmanship inferior?

Come on, Dudley councillors, place your cards on the table and give us the truth, if you dare.

PETER COLE
Kingswinford

Voters should prove identity, says MEP

PROPOSALS for voters to have to prove their identity at the ballot box has my full support.

There have been squeals from some quarters about the Government's proposals but it is, frankly, overdue.

Fraud may not have been widespread, though no one can say for sure, but any such dishonesty taints our electoral system.

And I am pleased that 'harvesting' postal votes for submission by activists is to be banned.

I personally would go further and tighten up the eligibility of postal voters to those who are physically unable to get to a polling station.

As places have shown postal voting offers an easy opportunity for exploitation by those wishing to cheat the system. It is therefore appropriate that it is one of the places chosen for inclusion in this ID pilot scheme.

For those without photo ID two or three forms of proof, such as utility bills, could be used. All adults, rich or poor, should have the ability to vote.

The requirement for voter ID works in Northern Ireland and it should work here too.

JAMES CARVER
West Midlands UKIP MEP

Elderly care more vital than pitch

REGARDING the savage cuts the Dudley Council are proposing to 16 supported living schemes for the elderly. I suggested that other areas should be found instead of these proposed cuts. I said they always attack the most vulnerable in society.

Low and behold, the Dudley Council say they will be part funding a replacement football pitch at the Dell Stadium. £660,000 it's going to cost. Half a million pounds on grant, leaving the council to fund £160,000.

Now this football pitch may need replacing, but they have their priorities wrong if they are prepared to fund this and cut the supported living schemes while we are still in austerity times.

Also they are thinking about demolishing three leisure centres in the borough and building two in place of them. Who at the council is dreaming up these crackpot schemes?

BOB WHITEHOUSE
Kingswinford

● Sales
● Hire
● Service
● Repair

STRAITS MOBILITY
www.straitsmobility.co.uk

STAIRLIFTS STRAIGHT & CURVED
FULLY FITTED NEW FROM £1195
RECONDITIONED FROM £700
In Store Demonstration available
Free! Home survey and fitting on all stairlifts.
All work carried out by fully qualified engineers

RISE & RECLINER CHAIRS
from £495

LARGE RANGE OF NEW AND PRE-OWNED SCOOTERS AVAILABLE

3, Middlepark Road, Russells Hall Estate, Dudley DY1 2LW
Open Mon-Fri 9.30am - 4.30pm
01384 356 356

NOW OPEN AT
BILSTON INDOOR MARKET
Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday

Make the RIGHT decision this Winter and give RYDALE a ring...

RYDALE
WINTER SALE
CELEBRATING Our 32nd ANNIVERSARY 2017

Windows, Doors, Conservatories, Orangeries, Porches, Fascias and Soffit Boards

Cleaning Services now available to restore all your uPVC products. Guttering and Driveways cleaning available

No deposits or stage payments, you only pay when the installation has been completed
Visit one of the largest conservatory and window shrowrooms in the UK
Supplied & Fitted... across the Midlands
Repair Service Available

RYDALE 10 YEAR Insurance Backed GUARANTEED
Guardian Warm Roof

Replace the existing roof on your conservatory and create a comfortable environment and a room you can use all year round

Every window and conservatory is custom made to the most rigorous quality standards you will find in the industry. No other company in the area has more experience and know how than Rydale, and that's why we have been in business for more than 30 years.

ULTIMATE SECURITY GUARANTEE
Rydale take security very seriously Guaranteed high security on ALL products
Full details on request

MASSIVE DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE ON JANUARY INSTALLATIONS

FREEPHONE 0800 917 6060 www.rydalewindows.co.uk Long Lane, Blackheath, Halesowen B62 9LS
Open Weekdays: 9am to 5.30pm Saturday: 9am to 4pm Sunday Closed

NEW YEAR
NEW KITCHEN
UP TO 25% OFF
SELECTED KITCHEN RANGES

NEW YEAR
OFFER
FREE Chimney Extraction Unit
Worth £250
with every kitchen installation

YOUR CHOICE KITCHENS
YOUR CHOICE...
FOR A BETTER KITCHEN

EXTRA DISCOUNT FOR OUR RETIRED & DISABLED CUSTOMERS

FREE COMPUTER AIDED PLANNING AND DESIGN SERVICE

Unit 5, Charterfield Shopping Centre, Charterfield Drive, Kingswinford, DY6 7SH

TELEPHONE: 01384 936939

We are open 7 days a week

20 years on Bully, remember me?

Ellie Bentley poses on Steve Bull's lap 20 years ago, and recreates the shot two decades later

A WOMAN has recreated a photograph taken of her with Wolves legend Steve Bull 20 years ago.

Ellie Bentley visited the Merry Hill shopping centre where he was promoting his book, Bully – Forever Wolves.

Ellie, who has previously been a mascot for Wolverhampton Wanderers is an avid season ticket holder. She first met the footballer at the tender age of one at a pub when he was doing some promotional work.

She was at the shopping centre recently with her mother and boyfriend to get her hands on a copy of the book for a Christmas present for her stepfather.

The 21-year-old, who is an administrator at Russells Hall Hospital and a business student at Worcester University, said: "It was a bit awkward at first, trying to explain that I wanted to recreate the photo but Steve was lovely and I think my stepdad will love the book as he's a massive fan."

The book tells the story of Bull's 30-year association with Wolves, charting his remarkable rise to fame and his life since hanging up his boots.

It has been compiled by the Express & Star and Wolves and was written by Wolves reporter Tim Spiers with Wolves media relations manager Paul Berry.

The book is £14.99. Copies can be ordered at bullybully.net/shop or at the Wolves club shop.

Check Steve Bull MBE Facebook for dates of book signings.

Dudley College

LOOKING FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP IN 2017?

Learn and earn in the New Year with an Apprenticeship. We have over 70 vacancies with local companies to start early 2017 in the following sectors:

- Accountancy
- Administration
- CAD design
- Catering
- Childcare
- Electrical
- Engineering
- Hair
- Health & social care
- Heating & ventilating
- Hospitality
- IT
- Painting & decorating
- Wall & floor tiling.

ONE OF THE TOP COLLEGES NATIONALLY
for the number of apprentices that successfully achieve their qualifications.

For interest in our vacancies or to arrange an interview email apprenticeships@dudleycol.ac.uk

To view current Apprenticeship vacancies and apply online visit www.dudleycol.ac.uk

hands-on thinking
Since 1862

New dish could leave chip shops squids in

Manager Chris Preece, of Stourbridge, with calamari (fried squid rings) served at Merchants fish and chips shop

IT is the traditional British takeaway on a Friday night. Fish and chips has been a national favourite for decades.

But lovers of cod and chips should enjoy it while it lasts, according to experts who claim it could disappear from menus and be replaced – by squid and chips.

Squid, often called calamari after its name in old Italian, can currently be picked up as a fancy starter at upmarket Italian restaurants or enjoyed on holiday abroad. But declining cod stocks could in future mean it will be added to the menu at chippies, alongside the pies, chicken, kebabs and tinned roe.

The Mediterranean seafood dish is already available at Merchants Fish and Chips in Worcester Street, Stourbridge.

Opened four years ago, the award-winning chip shop brought squid onto the menu to offer more variety to customers, says manager Chris Preece. It sells for £4.70 a portion and is served with salad, a lemon slice and dip.

Mr Preece said squid was rising in popularity but he thought it was doubtful, despite increasing fish prices and dwindling stocks of cod, that it would replace the traditional favourites.

Lemon sole, haddock and plaice are more likely to replace cod as the number one fish and chips choice, according to Mr Preece.

Most squid is caught in China, frozen and sold to UK wholesalers. Mr Preece said it was defrosted, sliced into around a dozen thick rings, battered and then deep fried in rape seed oil.

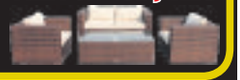
He added: "I think it is a wonderfully light dish. It isn't as heavy as a fish and chips which means it makes a perfect light meal with a glass of wine. Sales have been increasing."

Turn Your Home into a Castle
dudley
DOORS & CONSERVATORIES
Formerly of Stallings Lane

Buy Your New 2017 Conservatory With Complete Confidence!

We tick ✔ all the boxes
- Choice of floor tiles
- Choice of lighting
- Electric sockets
- Latest designs & colours
- Peace of mind from start to finish

plus FREE RATTAN FURNITURE ALL FOR £7,120



FULL RANGE OF DOORS

UPVC FRONT DOOR

From £450 Fitted

UPVC BACK DOOR

From £375 Fitted

Latest Colours Composite Doors from £750 fitted

Beautiful Coloured upvc Doors from only £550 fitted

CALL IN TODAY FOR A BROCHURE

40 YEARS IN THE AREA

WOLLASTON SHOWROOM
2E High Street, Wollaston, Stourbridge DY8 4NH.
Open Mon-Sat 10.00am-2pm Sundays (by appointment)
Tel: 01384 292484 or www.dudleydoors.com

Splashing Out on a New Bathroom?

"Our company is owned and run by local tradesmen meaning the work is carried out properly and on time. We strive to keep our prices as low as possible in order to keep within the budgets of retired, disabled and working families which make up 95% of our customers"

Our Prices won't Burst your Bubble

EXAMPLE FULL JOB FOR £3850.00
90x90 Quadrant Cubicle
with low level tray
15 SQM Wall Tiles
Tiled Floor
Replacement Shower
New Basin & WC

EXTRA DISCOUNT FOR OUR RETIRED & DISABLED CUSTOMERS

DISABLED SPECIAL
Are you having problems getting in & out of your bath? We will remove the Bath & Fit an easy access low level round, square or oblong cubicle & Tiled inside. Supply a new replacement shower A Folding Seat & Grab Rail
ALL FOR ONLY £2150.00

TRADESMEN OWN & RUN THIS COMPANY
WE DO THE LOT IN 5 DAYS

VAT FREE IN QUALIFYING CASES

WE PROMISE A VISIT & AN 'ON THE SPOT PRICE' WITHIN 48 HOURS OF YOUR CALL (Daytime & Weekend visits a pleasure)

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY FITTING DATES NOW BEING RESERVED

YOUR CHOICE BATHROOMS

Unit 4, Charterfield Shopping Centre, Charterfield Drive, Kingswinford DY6 7SH
01384 287222
Showroom also at: 39, Lichfield Road, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton WV11 1TW
01902 861908

SHOWROOMS OPEN 9am-5pm 6 Days a Week

Happy 2018!
Well, 2016 went by so quickly we thought we'd better get you ready for NEXT year!
Transform Your Kitchen
Don't leave it another year! Lets make it happen this year - with the No.1 Replacement Kitchen Doors experts
Over 40 Styles & Colours
January Sale
Buy 2 get 1 Free
0800 088 7044
Made to Size Doors | New Worktops | New Handles | New Look!
DON'T throw out costly cabinets when you can re-use them!
We Can Replace the Doors
Doors & More
Showrooms: Visit your local showroom or request a FREE home quote!
iudk.co.uk
01384 293654
Monday to Friday
10am - 5.30pm
Saturday 10 - 4pm
Closed Sunday
Get Your Brochure
NEW BROCHURE For 2017
Doors & More - Doors House Wordsley Green Stourbridge DY8 5PD (Next to Sainsburys)

Saucy jokes at 'Carry on panto'

REVIEW

by Leon Burakowski

Dick Whittington
Birmingham Hippodrome

BRUM'S big panto is a laughter riot, a colourful chaotic festive avalanche of raucous slapstick and saucy humour... but maybe too saucy.

As always at the Hippodrome, the costumes are stunning and the special effects, including a giant rat, flying reindeer sleigh and 3D underwater adventure, are second to none.

But the double and single entendres come thick and fast. So much so that mum and dad may be facing a few awkward questions from the youngest panto-goers. It feels like Carry On Panto.

It all starts with the panto hero's name. John Barrowman as tricky Dicky can't let those all-too-easy gags remain unsaid.

Super-showman Barrowman is a powerful singer and a decent hoofer, and in no doubt of his own star quality. Tthe confident panto star dominates every scene he is in.

He certainly has a rapport with tiny Janette Krankie, as Wee Jimmy, after appearing with panto veterans The Krankies at several Glasgow pantos.

In one scene he ends up in bed with Wee Jimmy (which is wrong on so many levels) and Barrowman goes on to manhandle the 68-year-old comedienne in a frenetic 12 Days of Christmas. I think I now know how it feels to cringe and laugh at the same time.

Those who delighted in The Krankies' panto appearances at Wolverhampton Grand will cheer the return of Wee Jimmy's Picking On Me song and the transformation into Ozzy Osbourne and 'MacDonna', pointy bra and all, singing about living 'in a miniature world'.

Steve McFadden as King Rat and John Barrowman as Dick Pic by Paul Coltas

Andrew Ryan as Sarah The Cook is as much drag queen as panto dame but looks stunning in mind-blowing costumes and does have some of the best lines.

Traditional

The traditional female roles, played by TV show winners turned West End stars Jodie Prenger (as Fairy Bow Bells) and Danielle Hope (as Alice), were largely kept out of the funny business and seemed merely present to look pretty and sing sweetly.

The heart of the panto – and this is a show lacking some heart – was Matt Slack as Idle Jack, who is becoming a regular at the Hippodrome panto and is already booked to play Buttons in Cinderella next year.

Slack is a gifted physical comedian and impressionist. He did a great Michael McIntyre and a 'Grant Mitchell' in front of his TV brother, as EastEnder Steve McFadden plays King Rat with a whiplash tail and lots of villainous enthusiasm.

Slack also gets the balance of friendliness, silliness and making fun just right when shepherding the children on stage for the sing-along scene.

Dick Whittington continues at the Hippodrome until January 29.

It is anarchic and frequently hilarious but does deserve a PG certificate.

JANUARY SALE
UP TO 50% OFF
all our products this Winter
This years Black Country Chamber of Commerce Finalists runner up in Customer Services Award
QUOTE PROMO CODE ES117
Is your conservatory too cold in the winter or too hot in the summer? We may have the solution with one of our fully insulated tiled roof systems without changing your base and frames.
To all the staff at DW Windows
Just to say a big thank you....We have had a excellent service from start to finish. Special thanks to the fitters 110% had been put into our windows being fitted. Very high standard, definately recommend.
Thanks Mr & Mrs Homer
Style... Value... Choice...
BUY NOW PAY NOTHING FOR A YEAR INTEREST FREE
NOT IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER OFFER
DW Windows
BUILT ON QUALITY, AFFORDABILITY AND RELIABILITY
WINDOWS, DOORS & CONSERVATORY CENTRE
8 Meadow Lane (Off Shaw Road), Coseley, West Midlands, WV14 9NQ Tel: 01902 661779
7 Brick Street, Sedgley DY3 1NT Tel: 01902 662511 Stourbridge 01384 900 185
www.dwwindows.co.uk Freephone: 0800 9990909

Hippodrome keys are handed to campaigners

THE keys to Dudley Hippodrome have been handed over to campaigners who helped save the historic venue from demolition.

The long-awaited moment finally came 78 years since the day the theatre was first opened.

Members of the Black Country Hippodrome group have spent years campaigning to save the Castle Hill landmark and can now begin work on transforming the venue and re-open to the public as a theatre for the first time in half a century.

The group, which was started by Geoff Fitzpatrick and Malcolm Palmer, have been busy working with architects who are finalising preparations to refurbish the building, which includes a large extension next to Trindle Road.

Within the extension will be a new entrance, cafe and box office.

A first floor bar and restaurant also features in the plan.

But around £5 million needs to be raised by the group to ensure the Hippodrome can open again.

Dr Paul Collins, chairman of the Black Country Hippodrome Limited, said, as the keys were handed over: "It's been a combination of five years hard work and I'm accepting these keys on behalf of everyone who's worked on this campaign.

"We hope that the new hippodrome will kick-start the rebirth of Dudley.

"Hard work and fundraising will now begin to get everything together to begin work on the building which is now a robust shell and turn it into an open working vibrant theatre."

He added: "We'd like to thank the council for putting their trust in us."

Dudley Council leader Councillor Pete Lowe hands over the keys to Dr Paul Collins, Hippodrome chairman

New transport app gets a regional trial

THE West Midlands is the only place outside of Finland that will be trialling a new integrated transport system.

The Whim app allows people to combine all their travel needs via their smartphone.

The region will be the UK's testing ground for Whim, an app which has been developed in Finland. The scheme is a collaboration between Transport for West Midlands, MaaS Global of Helsinki and transport providers.

Whim aims to encourage people to use transport other than the private car by giving them a travel plan tailored to their individual needs. Users pay for what transport they think they will require – ranging from car hire to taxis, bus, tram and train travel – over the course of a month or on a pay-as-you-go basis. The app will also establish the best journey routes and tickets deal.

Councillor Roger Lawrence, lead member for transport at West Midlands Combined Authority, said: "This is a great idea to encourage people to consider how they get about other than with the private car."

The pilot will run for 12 months. See whimapp.com/uk

£1m fraud conman is found and locked up

A FRAUDSTER who went on the run after the first day of his trial for a £1 million publishing con is finally behind bars.

Michael Phelan, from Stourbridge, was discovered in a betting shop on the south coast after he absconded from court and went on the run for two months.

In October he was found guilty in his absence and sentenced to seven-and-a-half years after failing to turn up on the second day of his trial at Birmingham Crown Court.

Conman Michael Phelan

The 61-year-old was arrested by Dorset Police in Bournemouth High Street and eventually started his prison sentence on December 15.

He had been convicted of 33 offences of fraud and theft for having run a business franchise con.

It came following a lengthy investigation by trading standards' national scam-busting team.

Phelan, originally from Cardiff, used the name Mike Jones to dupe people into investing in his crooked scheme.

He promised victims a guaranteed level of earnings and their money back within 12 months if they wanted to opt out.

Recruited

Victims were recruited to buy the rights to distribute his books for between £4,750 and £79,000. However, when they requested to see the books they were unavailable or the promised support never materialised.

The scam ran for more than 10 years with making Phelan about £1m.

During the trial, evidence was heard from more than 30 witnesses from across the country who had invested money in the scheme. Many had been left bankrupt and even homeless.

One victime from Blackpool, loaned Phelan £90,000, most of which was never repaid and Phelan moved to the West Midlands. He soon started to again to recruit agents into his bogus scheme, operating out of Stourbridge and Brierley Hill.

After he failed to return to court, claiming he was ill, inquiries showed he had cleared out the room he had been renting and the trial continued without him.

Brought back to Birmingham Crown Court after his arrest, he admitted an additional offence of failing to attend court whilst on bail. Phelan was sentenced to an additional six months in jail for that offence, to run consecutively to the initial term, making a total of eight years behind bars.

Lord Toby Harris, chairman of National Trading Standards, said: "I am pleased that Mr Phelan has now been brought to justice.

"He operated a major fraudulent scheme. The scheme left his victims out of pocket and in many cases bankrupt or homeless."

Photo show at the NEC

THE Photography Show 2017 is coming to Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre in March.

Experts will show how to capture stunning images in the show's Behind the Lens Theatre. Sessions are included in the show entry ticket fee and will take place each day from March 18 to 21. Tickets are on sale from the www.photographyshow.com website.

Fiona corner group. WAS £949 SALE £749

EXTRA discount price £699 SAVE £250

Walnut finish dining table & 4 chairs. WAS £1059 SALE £859

EXTRA discount price £499 SAVE £560

Natural oak effect triple door robe. WAS £399 SALE £299

EXTRA discount price £199 SAVE £200

Rest Assured large luxury storage divan set. WAS £649 SALE £499

EXTRA discount price £399 SAVE £250

WILLIAM&SONS
www.williamandsons.co.uk

Level Street | Merry Hill | Dudley | West Midlands | DY5 1UA | T. 01384 77444 OPENING HOURS: Monday to Friday 10-5.30pm Saturday 10-6pm Sunday 11-5pm

Alstons Baker bardi RUSTIC Hennessy HTL KINGSTOWN Lebus MYER'S rauch

0% APR Representative *Deferred interest free credit offer available on orders over £399. Representative Example: Cash Price £399. Deposit £0. Total Amount of Credit £399. Duration of the Agreement 18 months. 12 x Monthly Repayments of £33.25 starting 6 months after delivery or collection. Annual Rate of Interest 0%. Representative APR 0%. Total Amount Payable £399. Written details available on request. Credit is subject to status. Terms & Conditions apply. Price Match Promise Terms & Conditions apply. Ask in store or see our website for further details. All offers subject to availability E&OE.

Wombourne Windows™

JANUARY SALE

New For 2017
Our New Wodehouse Range of Elegant Windows

NOW ON
28% off

All orders placed before the end of January

Offer available at time of quotation call

Tel: 01902 897000

or visit our website at

www.wombourne-windows.co.uk

Morlock House, Bridgnorth Road, Wombourne, South Staffs WV5 0AL

New Year Opening Times: Thursday 10am-6pm, Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 10am-4pm, Sunday 10am-2pm

FSB
FENSA No 10753
TRUST MARK
FAIRTRADE
evolution storm
HomePro

Councillors' allowances cut as part of bid to save £25m

By Judith Hawkins

COUNCILLORS could take a cut in their allowances as Dudley Council continues to look for new ways to save £25 million.

Leader of the council, Councillor Pete Lowe, has put forward plans to cut his allowance by 10 per cent, while other councillors would lose five per cent.

The leaders of both opposition groups have also agreed to lose 10 per cent from their allowances under the plans.

It comes amid complex negotiations with unions over proposals to introduce changes to terms and conditions for all staff.

The council promises to protect the lowest paid staff and a pay freeze will be introduced for those earning above £23,000.

The new plans also include three days unpaid annual leave to be taken over the Christmas shutdown period.

The proposals were agreed by cabinet last month and will now form the basis of negotiations between unions and employees.

Councillor Lowe said: "As leader of this council I have made a very clear commitment to cut my own leader allowance by 10 per cent.

"We are facing some very challenging times because of unprecedented and continued reductions in funding from national government, and it is important as councillors we lead from the front by cutting our own allowances to save money.

"It is only fair to staff and the public that we are in this together in leaving no stone unturned in finding savings.

"We must also make sure that the savings from staff terms and conditions are fair, which is why we are suggesting the lowest paid of our staff are protected from a pay freeze.

"The original proposals were only ever the start of a thorough negotiating process and finding a way forward in the interests of staff.

"These measures will still meet the savings we are having to make, but also recognise that everyone will be affected in different ways by cuts."

The proposals include a pay freeze for staff earning £23,166 and over and an additional overtime freeze for staff who earn £36,937 and above.

It means 44 per cent of staff – the lowest earners at the authority – will be protected.

The proposals also include a reduction in car mileage allowance from 55p to 45p per mile.

Council bosses will consult with unions on the measures which have been put forward as part of £25m package of savings over three years.

The budget report forecasts that there will still be a deficit of £9m by 2019/20 if additional savings are not found.

School transformed into family homes

Val Pattinson, daughter of a former headmaster, with resident Pamela Finch who moved into the former school

THE conversion of a former school in Coseley into homes has been completed with new residents starting to move in.

A £2.45 million scheme has seen the building, which was also once home to Dudley's archives collection, turned into 16 new council homes.

The revamped properties are named Stanley Grange, in memory of George Stanley Grange, who was headmaster at the former Mount Pleasant School, from 1938 to 1967.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "This scheme has been one of our most important new build projects to date. It's also great to see that a building that has stood in the heart of the community for more than a century will now continue to do so for future generations."

The daughter of George Stanley Grange, Val Pattinson, said her family were absolutely delighted at the tribute to her late father as she went along to see the building and meet the new residents.

Improved rating for GP surgery

A GP surgery which had breached safety regulations has now improved enough to be rated as 'good' across the board by a health watchdog.

The Thorns Road Surgery in Quarry Bank has more than 3,000 registered patients. Concerns were raised last year that the practice nurse and staff who chaperone patients had not completed criminal checks. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) also expressed fears that the practice lacked risk assessments for legionella.

Following its most recent inspection, a new report identifies that these checks are now being done. The report adds the surgery has also addressed issues over a lack of fire drills and the monitoring of the temperature of vaccination fridges.

The practice on Thorns Road is no longer breaching Health and Social Care Act regulations in relation to safe care and treatment. The only remaining concern raised in this new report, was that the surgery has no defibrillator.

The practice manager, who did not wish to be named, said they were pleased with the improved rating.

Cyber safety is now a priority, chief tells young

THE dangers of 'sexting' and internet safety are among the priorities for police, the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Youth Summit heard.

Some 100 young people attended the annual event with the main focus being on issues including safer travel, internet safety, digital policing and the dangers of sexting, which is the sending, receiving, or forwarding sexually explicit messages, photographs or images.

Brand new Youth Commissioners – the voices of their peers when it comes to matters of policing – were also welcomed to their roles.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "The West Midlands is one of the youngest regions in Europe and it's vital that we listen to and learn from the younger members of our society.

"This was a night that showcased campaigns and strategies for young people by young people. All those who took part were truly inspirational and their work was educational and engaging. My office will now work closely with the youth commissioners."

The Youth Commissioners include Alex Russell and Louise Pardoe for Dudley, Chanay Knight for Birmingham West and Central, and Lucy Hunt for Sandwell.

Advertisement

PUBLIC NOTICE

SALE NOW ON
SAVE UP TO 75%

- SOFAS AND CHAIRS MADE TO ORDER - ANY SIZE
- FREE HOME DELIVERY
- FREE REMOVAL OF YOUR OLD BED
- LARGE SELECTION OF FABRIC AND LEATHER SUITES
- 2 & 3 SEATERS TO CLEAR FROM AN AMAZING £295 VARIOUS COLOURS AND DESIGNS

• SUITES • BEDS
• MATTRESSES • SOFAS
All reduced to a fraction of their normal price
NO REASONABLE OFFER REFUSED
UP TO £1,000 PART EXCHANGE FOR YOUR OLD SUITE

3 SEATER SOFA WITH 2 RECLINERS £395

DINING TABLE & 4 CHAIRS TO CLEAR £595
AVAILABLE IN ACACIA WOOD MATCHING PIECES ALSO AVAILABLE

Odd Bases & Mattresses To Clear from £69

LUXURY 4 DRAWER DIVAN
WAS £595
NOW £295

BRITISH MADE FOR QUALITY
Made to Measure
Recliners and Riser Recliners Available
Your chair, designed to fit you from £495
Matching sofas available
1000 fabrics, 100 leathers to choose from

Dreamworld furniture

8 Stallings Lane, Kingswinford DY6 7HU
Tel: 01384 295660
Open: Mon-Sat 10am - 5pm | Sun 10.30am - 4.30pm
LARGE FREE CAR PARK

Three Piece Suites, Chairs, Beds, Carpets, Dining and Bedroom Furniture

Round-the-clock motoring misery as work extends

DRIVERS are facing round-the-clock motoring mayhem on a busy commuter route as a £1.5 million scheme to reduce serious bottlenecks is extended.

Road closures at a busy junction between Wolverhampton and Dudley, currently taking place during off-peak hours only, will now see a 24/7 shutdown until the end of March.

Off-peak lane restrictions on A4123 Birmingham New Road will also see a 24-hour closure seven days a week, making it just one open lane in both directions. The work began this week.

Councillor Melvyn Mottram, for Coseley East, said: "It's going to be absolute chaos."

The decision was made in order to meet the original spring deadline for the completion of the work following problems in installing utilities at the site.

The scheme, centred on the key junction at Birmingham New Road and Shaw Road, is aimed at reducing congestion, improving conditions for cyclists and pedestrians, and addressing safety concerns following several accidents at the spot.

Councillor Steve Evans, City of Wolverhampton Council's cabinet member for city environment, said: "We apologise in advance for any inconvenience the works cause and would urge road users to remain patient."

Junior football team wrangle with FA over strip sponsorship

THE future of a children's football team is in doubt after the FA ruled that a Black Country nightclub cannot sponsor its kit.

FA chiefs have said the two sponsors of Kings Heath Concorde FC's youth teams – The Arena in Stourbridge and Birmingham tattoo parlour Warstone Body Art – breach its regulations.

It means neither firm can have their names and logos on the team kits.

When the decision was announced the future of the Birmingham club's youth teams looked uncertain due to the cost of replacing its kits, but outraged supporters have rallied round, with one even donating £500.

Support

Manager Russell Jukes said: "We decided to start the under eights and under 10s for the first time this season. I wrote about 50 letters to local businesses for support, but we didn't hear anything back until a couple of parents came forward from Warstone Body Art and The Arena."

With these sponsors providing the kits they needed, the youngsters kicked off their season only for a complaint to the FA to stop them in their tracks.

Report by Judith Hawkins

Mr Jukes said: "There are lots of other teams around the country who are sponsored by tattoo parlours, so there doesn't seem to be any fairness.

"All we are trying to do is to get these kids off the streets and playing football," he said.

Before the FA's sponsorship ban, the club had been looking to expand its youth team provision and planned to provide teams for those aged from six to 10 from March next year. Despite this setback, Mr Jukes is determined to go ahead with additional teams.

Also disappointed by the FA's decision is Michelle Clarke, general manager at The Arena on Hagley Road. She said: "We are really upset. We are not only a nightclub. We have function rooms and do all sorts of events, like kids' dance shows. The nightclub is only a small part of our business. We wanted to support the kids by buying their kit. We went with those from the tattoo studio to do a presentation at their Christmas party and saw how happy all the kids were to be part of the team."

Sarah Shand, owner of Warstone Body Art, in the Jewellery Quarter, whose nine-year-old son Louie plays for the team, said: "I just think it's an outdated decision."

At recent matches the under 10s used borrowed kit, while the under eights played with The Arena sponsorship taped over.

Mr Jukes said they would be looking to find a solution over the Christmas break as the youth teams to continue into 2017.

The Birmingham FA says the rules on what is, and what is not, appropriate advertising have been drawn up at a national level and have been in place for a number of years.

Kevin Shoemake, chief executive officer of the Birmingham FA, said: "We are very sympathetic of our clubs and conscious of the efforts they go to to raise money for kit, venues, referees, courses and other football-related expenditure.

Guidance

"But there are certain rules and regulations which clubs must adhere to, especially youth clubs. In this instance the FA has adjudicated and our hands are tied.

"Certain things are clear – if it's a pub, it's a no. Others are more subjective, like a social club that has a crèche. We will consider these on an individual basis and refer to the FA for any further guidance if need be. "We would encourage any youth team considering a sponsorship deal, if they have any doubts, to contact us."

Have a say at the community forum meetings

RESIDENTS can have their say on £25 million in cuts proposed by Dudley Council at the next round of community forums.

People are invited to one of the 10 forums which run throughout January to have their say on the council's budget proposals. There will be a representative from the police at each forum, to give people the opportunity to raise any crime or social order issues.

Community groups will also have the chance to apply for grants of up to £5,000.

Council leader Councillor Pete Lowe said: "Our community forums give local people the opportunity to get together and tell us about the issues that matter most to them."

The forums are being held at 6.30pm on:

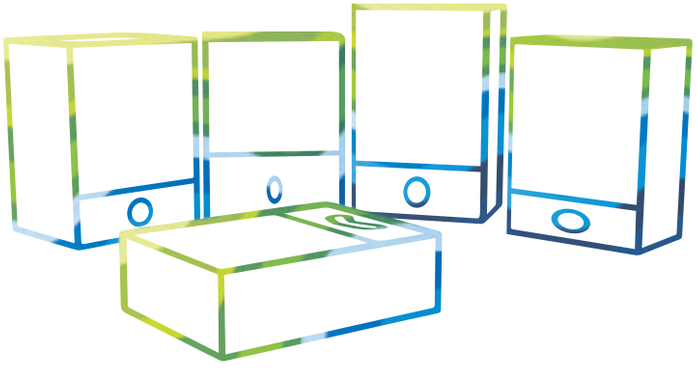
Monday: Coseley East and Sedgley at Christ Church Primary School, Church Road, Coseley; Gornal, Upper Gornal and Woodsetton at Lower Gornal Royal British Legion on Ruiton Street.

Tuesday: Woodside, St Andrew, Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood at Woodside Community Centre on Highgate Road.

Wednesday: Brierley Hill, Brockmoor and Pensnett at Oakfield Centre, Brettell Lane; Castle, Priory, St James and St. Thomas at St John's Parish Hall, Kates Hill.

January 12: Kingswinford, Wall Heath and Wordsley at Kingswinford Royal British Legion, Summerhill.

For more information visit www.dudley.gov.uk/resident



1 in 5 boilers won't make it this year

Sign up to SSE annual boiler cover and get the first **3 months free**

Call 0330 1000 060
sse.co.uk/3-months-free

sse | Proud to make a difference

Subject to T&Cs, exclusions and geographic restrictions. Standalone offer. Offer ends 31 March 2017. Boiler breakdown claim based on October 2013 uswitch survey. £0 for the first 3 months and then from £16.90 for the remaining 9 months when you take shield gas heating or shield gas boiler care (excluding flexi).

PUBLIC AUCTION

REVENUE & CUSTOMS VAT DEBT OF £50,212 (EXP 12/1/17)

A 40ft Shipping Container of expensive cargo destined for Hong Kong has been re-directed and will now be offered for **Urgent Disposal** in **Dudley** on **7/1/17.**

ALL ITEMS WILL BE SOLD ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS

As this is a VAT Sale, only Vat will be applicable to each bid.

No Auction Commission or Buyers Premium payable at this Sale.

No Internet Facility available. Physical Attendance is required.

HIGHEST OFFER AUCTION

{above a very minimal reserve}

INVENTORY

130 LOTS.....**STUNNING COLLECTION OF CERTIFIED BRAND NEW JEWELLERY, DIAMONDS & COLOURED STONES**
All set in 18ct. British Assay Office Stamped
Valuations & Gemmological Reports with all lots.

200 LOTS.....**A CONTAINER OF DESIRABLE ART**
Paintings, Limited Editions - Some very Famous Artists.
Original "One Off" Items of **Vintage Memorabilia.**

120 LOTS.....**A CELLAR OF OLD FRENCH WINES & CHAMPAGNES LARGE RARE & COLLECTABLE WHISKY CONSIGNMENT**

80 LOTS.....**12 PALLETS OF NEW MIXED GOODS**
Including Hand Made Furniture, Persian Carpets, Porcelain Vases, Crystal, Bronzes, Decorative Ware, Figureens, Gift Items etc

Due to the above items still containerised we can only show you a small selection on the website, please see below and please visit.
We cannot stress enough the importance of attending the Auction in person.

www.dudleyauction.co.uk

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Once the required monetory figure is achieved on the day, the Auction will close (approx 3hrs from start). Goods will be ready for collection **30 mins** after Auction closure until **8.00pm** on day of Sale. Storage can be arranged if you are unable to remove goods at short notice.

THIS SATURDAY 7 JANUARY 2017
THE COPTHORNE HOTEL
MERRY HILL, DUDLEY DY5 1UR
SALE STARTS AT 12 NOON PROMPT
VIEWING OPEN FROM 11.00AM

DUE DILIGENCE AND AUTHENTICATION
All goods have been inspected prior to containerisation. Authenticity guarantees are available with all lots purchased. Cash, certified cheques, all major credit cards accepted.

Sale Conducted by Charlie Williams Auctioneer (Est 30 years) www.charliewilliams.com
The Auction House, Drummore House, North Berwick Road, Musselburgh East Lothian EH21 8JT
Enquiries to Charles Phillips 07831 511452/0131 665 6448.

PAYMENT: MASTERCARD, MAESTRO, VISA, ETC. CERTIFIED CHEQUES & CASH

WINTER SALE
EXTRA DISCOUNTS
OFF ALL SALE PRICES

Offer now in its
Final Week!

At Cousins we've got a really big store full of *little wonders...*

Hurry, extra discounts off all sale prices are now in their final week, there's never been a better time to save on furniture, carpets, beds, homewares and much more, including all the famous brand names.

Plus pay nothing until Summer, no deposit, interest free.

£849
ORWELL CORNER GROUP
(INCLUDES CUSHIONS)
Normal ~~£1199~~ | Sale ~~£899~~
SAVE £350

SAVE OVER £1000
£1499
VINCENT OAK EXTENDING TABLE & 4 CHAIRS
Normal ~~£2529~~ | Sale ~~£1599~~

SAVE £250
£449
HEMINGWAY KING SIZE
FABRIC BEDSTEAD
Normal ~~£699~~ | Sale ~~£499~~

SAVE £200
£499
OTTO LEATHER
SWIVEL CHAIR
Normal ~~£699~~
Sale ~~£549~~

Denby · Parker Knoll · Harrison · HALO · Fama · TEMPUR · Wells & Gamble · skovby · DURESTA · Karndean · ercol

LOW SALE PRICES. PAY NOTHING UNTIL SUMMER. NO DEPOSIT. INTEREST FREE.

Cousins
a true family business

Open 7 days a week | Late Nights: Tuesday & Thursday until 8pm
(Subject to variation on Bank Holidays)

Birmingham	Dudley	Manchester
Warwick Road,	Hall Street	A57, Regent Rd,
Tyseley. B11 2EW.	DY2 8NW.	Salford. M5 4EA.
T: 0121 765 3300	T: 01384 451500	T: 0161 875 4070

www.cousinsfurniture.co.uk

PRICE PROMISE Our price promise to you, we won't be beaten on price! *

CELEBRATING 31 YEARS

- Free parking
- Instore restaurant
- Large stocks
- Immediate delivery

TRUSTED MERCHANT 2016 ★★★★★ feefo

0% APR REPRESENTATIVE Deferred Interest Free Credit available on all orders over £500. Subject to status. All balances must be paid in June 2017 on the date specified at the time of purchase. Written details on request. Offer not available on clearance items, online offers, web specials and in-store concessions. Some items are subject to one per household and only available in limited colours, or the colours shown in this advert. Prices in this advert are valid until 15.01.17 except where stated. See website for Price Promise details.

What's New Jan–April 17

Learning4Life
Dawn to Dusk - Nought to Ninety

The Wordsley School

TELEPHONE NOW TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

ARTS AND CRAFTS

POTTERY FOR BEGINNERS **NEW**
Thurs 19 Jan. 19.00 - 21.00. 10 wks. TBC#

GET TO KNOW POETRY **NEW**
Thurs 19 Jan. 19.00-21.00. 5 wks. £36.00#

CAKES AND CAKE DECORATING **NEW**
Tues 17 Jan. 19.00 - 21.00. 5 wks. £36.00#

HEALTHY COOKING **NEW**
Thurs. 19 Jan. 19.00 - 21.00. 5 wks. £36.00#
Thurs. 2 Mar. 19.00 - 21.00. 5 wks. £36.00#

PUDDINGS **NEW**
Tues 28 Feb. 19.00 - 21.00. 5 wks. £36.00#

SUGARCRAFT **NEW**
Mon 16 Jan. 19.00 - 21.00. 5 wks. £41.00#

PAINTING AND DRAWING suitable for all levels
Tues 17 Jan. 19.00 - 21.00. 10 wks. £67.00#
Wed 18 Jan. 9.30 - 11.30. 10 wks. £67.00#
Thurs 19 Jan. 10.00-12.00. 10 wks. £67.00#
Thurs 19 Jan. 13.30- 15.30. 10 wks. £67.00#

WATERCOLOURS FOR BEGINNERS
Mon 6 Mar. 14.30-16.30. 3 wks. £21.60#

CREATIVE WRITING
Mon 16 Jan. 19.00-21.00. 5 wks. £36.00#
Mon 27 Feb. 19.00-21.00. 5 wks. £36.00#

PHOTOGRAPHY FOR BEGINNERS
Thurs 19 Jan. 19.30-21.00. 10 wks. £54.00#

LEARN TO SCULPT IN STONE
Tues 17 Jan. 19.00 - 21.00. 5 wks. £36.00#
Tues 28 Feb. 19.00 - 21.00. 5 wks. £36.00#

HANDICRAFTS

HOW TO USE A SEWING MACHINE
Mon 16 Jan. 19.00-21.00. 3 wks. £21.60#

UPHOLSTERY SUITABLE FOR ALL LEVELS
Tues 17 Jan. 12.00-14.00. 10 wks. £67.00#

DRESSMAKING SUITABLE FOR ALL LEVELS
Tues 17 Jan. 09.30-11.30. 10 wks. £67.00#

PATCHWORK SUITABLE FOR ALL LEVELS
Wed 18 Jan. 14.30-16.30. 10 wks. £67.00#

UPHOLSTERY & SOFT FURNISHINGS
Wed 18 Jan. 12.00-14.00. 10 wks. £67.00#

SEWING MADE SIMPLE SUITABLE FOR ALL LEVELS
Thurs 19 Jan. 18.00-20.00. 10 wks. £67.00#

BASIC COMPUTER COURSES

COMPUTING : THE BASICS
Tues 24 Jan. 14.30-16.30. 3 wks. £21.60#

COMPUTING SKILLS: INTERNET+ E MAIL
Tues 28 Feb. 14.30-16.30. 3 wks. £21.60#

COMPUTER COURSES
(Basic computer and internet skills are required)

PHOTOSHOP 1
Mon 16 Jan. 9.30-11.30. 5 wks. £36.00#

PHOTOSHOP 2
Mon 27 Feb. 9.30-11.30. 5 wks. £36.00#

CREATE YOUR OWN WEBSITE
Tues 17 Jan. 19.00-21.00. 5 wks. £36.00#

BUYING AND SELLING ON E-BAY
Tues 28 Feb. 19.00-21.00. 4 wks. £28.80#
Tues 28 Feb. 9.30-11.30. 4 wks. £28.80#

AN INTRODUCTION TO IPAD
Tues 17 Jan. 09.30-11.30. 1 wk. £7.20#
Tues 28 Mar. 09.30-11.30. 1 wk. £7.20#

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR IPAD
Tues 24 Jan. 09.30-11.30. 3 wks. £21.60#

BUSINESS

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS
Mon 16 Jan. 19.00-21.00. 3 wks. £21.60#

INTRO TO MANUAL BOOK KEEPING
Mon 6 Feb. 19.00-21.00. 8 wks. £57.60#

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINDFULNESS
Mon 23 Jan. 19.30-21.00. 4 wks. £21.60#
Mon 27 Feb. 19.30-21.00. 4 wks. £21.60#

HEALTH AND FITNESS

PILATES
TASTER Thurs 12 Jan. 17.30-19.00 1 wk. *FREE*
Improvers: Tues 10 Jan. 19.00-20.00. 11 wks. £39.60
Improvers: Wed 11 Jan. 18.30-19.30. 11 wks. £39.60
Improvers: Thurs 12 Jan. 19.05-20.05. 11 wks. £39.60
Improvers: Thurs 12 Jan. 20.10-21.10. 11 wks. £39.60
Beginners @ The Oakfield Centre:
Fri 13 Jan. 10.00-11.00. 10 wks. £40.00#

FITNESS YOGA
Tues 10 Jan. 20.05-21.05. 11 wks. £39.60
Thurs 19 Jan. 18.00-19.00. 10 wks. £36.00#

ADULT SWIMMING LESSONS:
Beginners: Mon. 16 Jan. 19.00-19.45. 10 wks. £31.50#
Improvers: Mon. 16 Jan. 19.45-20.30. 10 wks. £31.50#
Advanced: Mon. 16 Jan. 20.30-21.15. 10 wks. £31.50#
Beginners: Tue. 17 Jan. 19.00-19.45. 10 wks. £31.50#
Improvers: Tue. 17 Jan. 19.45-20.30. 10 wks. £31.50#

DANCE

DANCE FIT
Tues 17 Jan. 18.00-19.00. 10 wks. £36.00#
Tues 17 Jan. 19.10-20.10. 10 wks. £36.00#

LANGUAGES

FRENCH
Inters: Mon. 16 Jan. 19.00-21.00. 10wks. £67.00#
Cont Beg: Tues. 17 Jan. 18.00-19.00. 10 wks. £36.00#
Improvers: Tues. 17 Jan. 19.00-21.00. 10 wks. £67.00#
Advanced: Thurs. 19 Jan. 19.00-21.00. 10 wks. £67.00#

ITALIAN
Beginners Mon 16 Jan. 09.30-11.30. 10 wks. £67.00#
Improvers: Mon 16 Jan. 12.00-14.00. 10 wks. £67.00#
Cont Beg: Mon 16 Jan. 14.30-16.00. 10 wks. £54.00#

SPANISH
NEW Beg: Tue 17 Jan. 14.30-16.00. 10 wks. £54.00#
Cont Beg: Wed 18 Jan. 09.30-11.00. 10 wks. £54.00#
Cont Beg: Wed 18 Jan. 11.30-13.00. 10 wks. £54.00#
NEW Beg: Tue 17 Jan. 19.00-21.00. 10 wks. £67.00#
Improvers: Wed 18 Jan. 14.00-15.30. 10 wks. £54.00#

MUSIC

PLAY THE GUITAR
Intermediates: Mon. 16 Jan. 19.00-21.00. 10 wks. £67.00#
Cont Beg: Tues. 17 Jan 19.00-20.30. 10 wks. £54.00#
Improvers : Thurs. 19 Jan. 19.00-20.30. 10wks. £54.00#

PLAY THE GUITAR FOR CHILDREN (8YRS+)
Beginners L1 Mon 16 Jan. 16.45-17.45. 5 wks. £45.75
Beginners L2 Mon 16 Jan. 17.45-18.45. 5 wks. £45.75
Improvers: Thurs 19 Jan. 17.45-18.45. 5 wks. £45.75
L1 = Level 1 L2 = Level 2

QUALIFICATIONS

BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE LEVEL 1 **NEW**
Thurs 12 Jan. 18.00-21.00. 22 wks. £375.00
(Includes examination fees)

DUDLEY MBC INDUCTION TRAINING FOR POOLSIDE ASSISTANTS
Tue 3 Jan. 09.00-12.00. 3hrs. £19.20
OR Fri 7 Apr. 09.00-12.00. 3hrs. £19.20

LEVEL 2 AWARD IN FOOD SAFETY IN CATERING
Tue 28 Feb. 17.30-21.00. 2 wks. £48.00

NATIONAL POOL LIFEGUARD
Mon-Sat 10-15 Apr 08.30-17.00. £220.00
Mon-Sat 24-29 Jul 08.30-17.00. £220.00
(Includes course manual and assessment fee)
Please check our website for course requirements

FIRST AID

EMERGENCY FIRST AID
Fri 17 Feb. 9.00-12.00. 2 wks. £38.40

PAEDIATRIC FIRST AID.
Fri 20 Jan. 9.00-13.00. 1/2 day. £25.60
Fri 24 Mar. 9.00-13.00. 1/2 day. £25.60

Funded by Skills Funding Agency

Reduced Fees: Where you see this # sign the course is supported by The Skills Funding Agency. If you are in receipt of certain benefits fees are reduced to 25%. Price in brackets () includes additional costs.

Course Dates: Courses are suspended on 20th to 26th February unless stated otherwise

This programme is subject to change: particularly if we are unable to recruit minimum class numbers. Whilst every effort is made to ensure that this programme and the pricing is accurate at the time of publication, changes and errors may occur. We reserve the right to amend details as required.

PLEASE NOTE: A 1.2% charge will be added to all credit card payments processed through Dudley MBC . Debit card payments remain unchanged.

Use your Smartphone to read our QR (quick response) code. It will take you to our website.

FRIDAY WORKSHOPS

KEEP SAFE ONLINE
Fri 31 Mar. 09.30-12.30. 1 wk. £20.55

MINDFULNESS
Fri 27 Jan. 09.30-12.30. 1 wk. £20.55

INTENSIVE COURSES

HOW TO USE A SEWING MACHINE
Fri 3 Feb. 09.30-12.30. 2 wks. £21.60#

HOW TO USE AN OVERLOCKER
Fri 10 Mar. 13.00-15.30. 2 wks. £18.00#

ADVANCED OVERLOCKER
Fri 10 Mar. 09.30-12.30. 2 wks. £21.60#

CREATE YOUR OWN BAG
Fri 24 Mar. 13.30-15.30. 3 wks. £21.60#

FAMILY LEARNING
The price includes a place for one adult (aged over 19) and a child.

TEACH YOUR CHILD TO SWIM Children 18 mths-4yrs
Tue 10 Jan. 10.30-11.15. 11 wks. £30.95#
Fri 13 Jan. 10.50-11.35. 11 wks. £30.95#
Sat 14 Jan. 08.50-09.20. 11 wks. £20.65#
Sun 15 Jan. 13.30-14.15. 11 wks. £30.95#

SEW TOGETHER
Thurs 2 Mar. 16.00-17.30. 5 wks. £22.50#

FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHY
Tue 17 Jan. 16.00-17.30. 5 wks. £22.50#

LEARNING4LIFE SWIM SCHOOL

Spaces Available for January

For information and all availability please give us a call

Term Dates: Tuesday 3 Jan to Sunday 2 Apr 2017
Exc. Mon 20 Feb to Sun 26 Feb

Cost:	Tue-Sun **12 wks.**	Mon **11 wks.**
First Steps, Pre Beginners, Beginners, Improvers.	£52.80	£48.40
Intermediates 1, 2 and 3, Rookie Lifesaving.	£45.60	£41.80
Advanced, Survive & Save.	£57.00	£52.25

We operate at different times 7 days a week

*** Quality, experienced teachers * Excellent achievement and retention levels**
*** New Parents Home Portal allowing parents to view children's progress online**
*** Competitive prices * Small class sizes**
*** Extensive free parking**

NEW ROOKIE LIFEGUARD
Bronze Award classes starting January

Learn about water safety and how to act out rescues whilst having fun

You must be between 8-12 years of age
You must be able to swim in deep water
You must be able to swim 25 Metres confidently
You must be able to tread water
You must be able to swim front stroke, back crawl and breaststroke.

Introductory price for January term only *£40*

Tel.01384 816043. Mon to Fri. 9.30 - 13.30
studentservices@learning4life.co.uk www.learning4life.co.uk

Dudley

Former chapel sells for £132k

A FORMER chapel in Netherton has been sold for £132,000 – £50,000 more than the guide price for the building.

The Old Chapel, in St Giles Street, went up for auction via property consultancy firm SDL Bigwood.

The chapel, which was built in 1810, was used by Champions Church until their new building was opened in Cinder Bank in 2010 for its growing congregation.

They run a weekly soup kitchen at the former chapel for people in need, which will be moved to another venue.

Auctioneer Ron Darlington said the old chapel had created 'a lot of interest' and could be converted into flats.

It had originally been given a guide price of £75,000 but had exceeded that despite being in need of extensive modernisation and refurbishment throughout.

The premises include a forecourt and side driveway.The building also includes offices and a seated balcony.

2016 was great year for zoo as visitor numbers top 300,000

IT'S been a roaring trade at Dudley Zoo this year as bosses celebrate the highest visitor numbers in more than three decades.

The Castle Hill attraction has welcomed its 300,000th visitor through the turnstiles as it prepares to mark its 80th birthday in 2017.

Chief executive Derek Grove, who only took over the site last April, is delighted with the increasing numbers, which are 10 per cent up on the previous and almost double those they were seeing through the turnstiles 10 years ago.

Mr Grove said: "It's been an incredible 12 months and to hit 300,000 before the end of the year is an amazing early Christmas present for all staff.

"We haven't seen these kind of figures in over three decades and just 10 years ago in 2006 we saw 165,000 people visit, which we've almost doubled.

In 2015 the total number of people who visited was 279,599, but this year that amount was already reached in early November.

Invested

Mr Grove added: "During the last 12 months we've invested heavily across the 40 acres, opening a new lorikeet walkthrough exhibit, macaques on the bank, a refurbished flamingo enclosure and a black howler monkey exhibit and giant anteater enclosure, plus we've introduced new animal species for Dudley Zoological Gardens, which in turn have all enhanced our visitor experience.

"We've had a very busy three weeks on site for Santa's grotto in Dudley Castle and we expect to break last year's record by Christmas Eve.

"From everyone at Dudley Zoological Gardens we'd like to say thank you to everyone for their continued support and we look forward to breaking even more records next year during our 80th year."

The zoo site, which includes the 11th century castle, won a TripAdvisor 2016 Certificate of Excellence. The award is presented to those attractions which gain consistently high ratings on the popular TripAdvisor travel website.

Debate call on access to drugs

TWO Dudley residents who have been campaigning for better cystic fibrosis treatments have prompted a House of Commons debate.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin organised the debate to push for changes on how the NHS assesses new drugs that promise improved quality and length of life.

Cystic fibrosis is an inherited disease affecting over 10,000 people in Britain. It causes the lungs and digestive system to become clogged with mucus, making it hard to breathe and digest. The average survival age is around 41.

The debate was inspired by two of Mr Austin's constituents, Samantha Carrier and Carly Jeavons. The MP said: "I want the Government to listen to the recommendations of its own review and change the NHS rules on commissioning new treatments."

New beer for restaurant relaunch

Jack Forster, left, from Hickory's and Sadler's Steve Robinson sample the new brew

A BLACK Country brewery will be rolling out the barrels after securing a tasty deal with a nationwide chain of restaurants.

Sadler's, in Lye, has created Goose Creek, an American style IPA, for Hickory's, which has smokehouse restaurants up and down the country – including one due to reopen in Wall Heath later this year after a devastating fire.

Ian King, sales director at Sadler's, said: "We're absolutely over the moon with this opportunity. We're very much looking forward to a successful 2017 where we'll be working closely with Hickory's."

The team have been mixing malts and playing with some unique flavours for the past few months in a quest to create a truly authentic beer for their guests that was able to match their barbecue-style American food in both boldness and character.

Head of bar development at Hickory's Smokehouse, Sammy Sale, said: "We have had an amazing day with Ian and the team at Sadler's. It's a real honour to be able to tap into their incredible knowledg. We are hoping their input really shines through in our next batch of Goose Creek."

Hickory's currently have restaurants in Chester, West Kirby, Rhos-on-Sea and Burton Green.

"The new restaurant and bar in Wall Heath is going to be bigger and better than ever," added Mr Sale. "After all the amazing support we have had we think our guests deserve their very own beer to toast the launch of their new Smokehouse."

Hickory's Smokehouse in Kidderminster Road, at the former Kingfisher Club site, is due to open again in July – almost a year since the blaze caused by an electrical fault.

Poor ratings given to third of care homes

AROUND a third of care homes in the Black Country are failing to meet standards expected by the health regulator.

Data from the Care Quality Commission showed Wolverhampton has more inadequate homes than anywhere else.

Not one care home across the whole of the Black Country has the top rating of outstanding, statistics show. It adds 78 care homes are rated as either 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate'.

Five have the worst-possible rating of inadequate, three of which are in Wolverhampton. Walsall has the highest percentage of care homes needing improvement at 40 per cent, with Dudley at 36 per cent.

In the Dudley borough, 22 care homes have ratings of requires improvement. In Walsall, 18 have the second-lowest rating of requires improvement.The data showed care homes in Sandwell were performing better than other parts of the Black Country.

Boxer will meet fans

AMERICAN boxer Floyd Mayweather is coming to Birmingham.

Mayweather, who won 15 world titles, is widely considered to be one of the greatest boxers of all time.

He is to meet his UK fans at a Las Vegas-themed ball on March 3, at the ICC.

Last year Mayweather came to the West Midlands to meet fans at an event at the Bar Sport venue in Cannock.

For further details or to buy tickets go to website www.showfighter.co.uk

DESIGNED | PLANNED | INSTALLED

Serenity
KITCHENS & BATHROOMS
Call us on 01384 279 997

THE ONE STOP SHOPPING EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR NEW KITCHEN

READ BELOW WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU

- Provide a full design and project management service if required
- Take your ideas and make them a reality
- So please come and meet the team at Serenity
- All trades are carried out by our team. This includes, building, tiling, plastering, carpentry, electrical, plumbing and gas. No job is too big or too small for us. No gimmicks, just quality goods and quality service.

Example Job
Choice of 9 Door Panels
Colours and styles
7 Units worktops and upstands, oven, hob and extractor
sink and tap
Cornice, Pelmet and End Panels
Fully Fitted £3995

Stallings Lane | Kingswinford | DY6 7AP

www.serenitykitchensbathrooms.co.uk

Taxi driver was also dealing in cannabis

A TAXI driver's drug dealing was discovered when he was pulled over by police who found cannabis in his car.

Abdul Qadir, aged 33, from Bean Road, Dudley, was driving his Skoda with his girlfriend in the passenger seat along the town's Priory Road on January 12 of last year. He was stopped and, after finding two small bags of cannabis in the car, officers searched his house.

He was found to be in possession of a total of 46.5g of the drug, worth £470 in street value.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard he had avoided prison for an almost identical incident in 2009, when he was pulled over by police, who subsequently found 55g of cannabis, worth £550 on the street.

Qadir pleaded guilty to possession of a Class B drug with intent to supply and was handed eight months in prison, suspended for 18 months. He must also carry out 120 hours of community service

Defence barrister Mr James Fraczyk said: "His history is an aggravating feature against him. He was previously taking Class A drugs and had a problem with Class B drugs but his habits have improved."

Steve Field is one of the artists who has contributed to the new maps and guides to the West Midlands

Putting art back on the public transport map

A SERIES of maps inspired by life the public transport network in the West Midlands has been put on display.

Images were specially commissioned by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) for each area of the region.

They have now been reproduced in pocket travel guides and in posters at travel information points.

For the central Wolverhampton guide, artist Steve Field chose to draw the Victorian 'carriage entrance' to Wolverhampton railway station, in stark contrast with the new modernist bus station canopy.

Artist Richard Clark created an image of a carved pillar on a music shop which featured in the Walsall guide.

He also developed stained glass windows depicting Bulls on the famous 'Vine' public house in Brierley Hill are on a large Dudley poster.

Creatures at Dudley Zoo were depicted by artist Ann Taylor in her paintings, with her bold, colourful images of a flamingo, an owl, giraffes and a toucan adorning posters across the network.

Another poster shows Paul Hipkiss's crisp print of a peaceful canal scene near Dudley Port Station.

WMCA's transport arm, Transport for West Midlands (TfWM, then Centro), jointly funded the project and some artwork, with Arts Council England.

The artists took a variety of approaches, many choosing to focus on landmarks and architecture, using techniques from printmaking to paper cuts, ink and watercolour.

BATHROOM & PLUMBING STORES
your local trade and retail merchants

HUGE RANGE OF BATHROOMS

HUGE SELECTION OF KITCHENS

SPECIALIST PLUMBING PRODUCTS

DRAINAGE | PIPE | FITTINGS | PRESS FIT

BOILERS | RADIATORS | HEATING

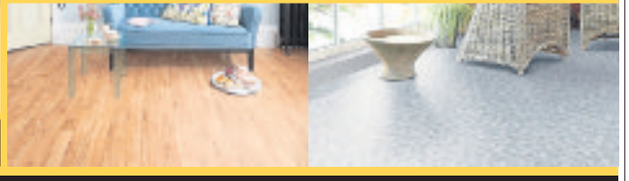
TOOLS | FIXINGS | FASTENERS | SILICONES

ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES

WET WALL PANELS

TILES | ADHESIVES | GROUTS | ACCESSORIES

FLOORING



BRIERLEY HILL BRANCH
UNITS 11/12 MOUNT PLEASANT
QUARRY BANK,
BRIERLEY HILL DY5 2YS
01384 74949

TIPTON BRANCH
OPENS MONDAY 9TH JANUARY
UNIT 15, ECLIPSE TRADING ESTATE
SEDGLEY ROAD WEST, TIPTON DY4 8DQ
0121 520 8189

OPENING HOURS
7.30 am-5.00 pm MON-FRI
8.00 am-5.00 pm SATURDAY
CLOSED SUNDAYS

- AMPLE PARKING
- FREE LOCAL DELIVERY
- SPECIALIST ADVICE
- HUGE STOCKS

Quest zone suddenly closes at Merry Hill

THE Quest entertainment zone at Merry Hill closed suddenly just days before Christmas.

It was used by hundreds of families every week but has now shut.

A statement on the firm's website confirmed the 'incredibly difficult decision' to close, which comes after a turbulent few weeks.

Quest revealed last month that it was closing its outdoor play area as Merry Hill owner Intu wanted to use the area to create more parking spaces.

By Richard Guttridge

Bosses said at the time that the blow of losing the outdoor play area would mean having to make changes in order to survive.

But just six weeks later, the whole centre closed with the shutters down following the shock decision.

Difficulties

The company has previously faced difficulties during its time at Merry Hill and was saved from closure last year in a last-minute buyout.

Quest owner has Mark Knox promised to release more details about the decision to close at the Brierley Hill mall.

The indoor part of the centre provided a soft play area for youngsters while the centre was also home to Europe's highest indoor ropes course and mini golf.

The outdoor area had featured the Nerf combat arena.

Merry Hill said it was 'disappointed' to lose Quest.

A statement from Mr Knox said: "We took the incredibly difficult decision to close Quest. After taking advice from our legal team we have ceased trading at Merry Hill.

"I will follow up with further news and give you all some facts that will hopefully quell the rumours.

"My sincere apologies for the decision but in the coming days it will become clear why we've had to take the course of action."

Merry Hill spokesman Rob Pickersgill said: "We're disappointed to hear that Quest is closing down.

"This is a commercial decision taken by Quest and we wish their staff well."

Quest has proved popular with families across the West Midlands and the huge branding which is splashed across the centre will be recognisable to the thousands of shoppers.

Bosses at Quest had suggested they were unhappy at being asked to hand back the area occupied by its outdoor play area, saying they had 'tried to battle and fight to retain our space but with no success'.

Grandfather killed when hit by two cars

A MAN killed on a busy Dudley road was hit by one car which threw him into the path of another, an inquest heard.

Arthur Fletcher, of Beckensall Close, was treated at the scene following the accident in Priory Road on December 10, but died later in hospital. The 65 year old had been hit by a red Nissan Juke at about 5.30pm. The impact of the first collision caused him to rebound onto the other side of the carriageway where he was struck by a Vauxhall Zafira, the Black Country Coroners Court heard.

Giving evidence at the opening of the inquest, coroner's investigating officer Bonita Poole said: "Both drivers have been seen and at this time it looks like there was no fault between the two drivers, but a police investigation is currently ongoing."

The cause of death given was multiple injuries. The inquest was adjourned until February 15.

live happy!

with Slimming World

FREE membership*
PLUS new easy-start book of menus
*When you buy a 12-week Countdown between 25th December and 21st January

MONDAY

NEW GROUP
CRADLEY HEATH 7pm
Hadencross Fire Station
Sarah 07815 071982

NEW CONSULTANT
ROWLEY REGIS 7pm
Dudley Golf Club, Turners Hill
Sarah 07815 071982

DUDLEY WOOD 9.30am
Dudley Wood Methodist Church, Quarry Road
Lisa 07986 673899

QUARRY BANK 5pm & 7pm
Thorns Primary School
Thorns road
Lisa 07989 673899

WORDSLEY 5pm & 7pm
Richardson Hall, Lawnswood Road
Ian 07970 147592

SEDGLEY 5pm & 7pm
St Chads & All Saints Social Club
High Holborn, Dudley Rd
Gaz 07517 675787

NETHERTON 5.30pm & 7pm
Cole Street Methodist Church, Cole Street
Heather 07729 105659

TUESDAY

NEW TIMES
NORTON 9.30am & 11.30am
Scout Hut, Kempton Way
Caroline 01562 888315

NEW GROUP
WORDSLEY 7pm
Richardson Hall, Lawnswood Road
Maddie 07815 132320

NEW VENUE
GIGMILL/NORTON 7pm
Gigmill Methodist Church, Glebe Rd
Kelly 07508 406909

NEW TIME
DUDLEY (Wrensnest) 9.30am
Wrensnest Community Centre, Summer Road
Louise 07967 624573

WOLLASTON 7pm
St James C of E Primary School, Kingsway
Joanne 07967 624573

BROMLEY/ KINGSWINFORD
3pm, 5pm & 7pm
The Dingle Community Centre, Madley Rd
Vicky 07906 875612

WALL HEATH 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Maidensbridge Primary School, Beechcroft Road
Jenny 07983 568652

GORNAL WOOD 9.30am
Himley Road Methodist Church,(large car park at rear via Chapel Walk)
Becki 07986 40793

WORDSLEY 9.30am
Richardson Hall, Lawnswood Rd
Ian 07970 147592

WOODSETTON 6pm & 7.45pm
Bramford Primary School, Park Road
Louise 07967 624573

GORNAL 5pm & 7pm
Zoar Methodist church, Abbey Road
Becki 07986 407934

NETHERTON 9.30am
Cole Street Methodist Church, Cole Street
Heather 07729 105659

ROWLEY REGIS 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Rowley Regis Disability Centre, 26 Rowley Village
Kenton 07982 408088

AMBLECOTE 6pm & 7.30pm
Peters Hill Primary School, Peters Hill Road
Lynne 01384 455427

PEDMORE
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Hob Green School, Hob Green Road
Paula 07846 847068

WEDNESDAY

NEW GROUP
WORDSLEY 9.30am
Richardson Hall, Lawnswood Road
Maddie 07815 132320

NEW GROUP
BELBROUGHTON 7pm
The Bell
Bromsgrove Road
Jo 07966 298118

NEW CONSULTANT
LOWER GORNAL 7pm
The Straits Primary School, Milton Crescent
Louise 07967 624573

NEW TIMES
KINGSWINFORD 3pm, 5pm & 6.30pm
British Legion, Summerhill Road
Ann 07787 186259

STOURBRIDGE 9.30am
Town Hall (Wollaston Room)
Crown Centre
Marie 01384 893001

PEDMORE 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Hob Green School, Hob Green Road
Paula 07846 847068

OLDHILL 9.15am
Holy Trinity Church, Halesowen Road
Sarah 07815 071982

OLDHILL 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Holy Trinity Church, Halesowen Road
Sarah 07815 071982

WEDNESDAY

AMBLECOTE 5.30pm & 7.15pm
Amblecote Primary School, School Drive
Caroline 01562 888315

OLDSWINFORD
3.45pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
St Mary's Church Hall, Rectory Road
Kerry 01384 833812

BROCKMOOR 9.30am & 11.30am
Brockmoor Community Centre, Pensnett Rd
Ian 01384 827999

NETHERTON 7pm
Hill Crest School and Community College, Slimms Lane
Heather 07729 105659

TIVIDALE 5pm & 7pm
St Micheals Church, Tividale Road
Kenton 07982 408088

BRIERLEY HILL 7pm
Withymoore Primary School, Gayfield Avenue
Lynne 01384 455427

UPPER GORNAL 9.30am
Upper Gornal Methodist Church, Spills Meadow
Lynne 07963 539384

DUDLEY/UPPER GORNAL 7pm
Bishop Milner RC School, Broadway Entrance, Burton Road
Sue 01902 882323

THURSDAY

NEW GROUP/NEW CONSULTANT OPENING 26th JANUARY
NORTON 7.30pm
St Michaels Church Hall
Maynard Avenue
Ciara 07938 090604

NEW GROUP
WALL HEATH 9.30am
Church of the Ascension, Dudley Road
Jenny 07983 568652

NEW GROUP
BELBROUGHTON 9.30am
The Bell,
Bromsgrove Road
Jo 07966 298118

STOURBRIDGE 10am
St Thomas Church Hall
Market Street
John 01384 423616

HAWBUSH/BRIERLEY HILL 5pm & 7pm
Oakfield Community Centre, Brettle Lane
John 01384 423616

STOURBRIDGE 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Greenfield Primary School, Hill Street
Marie 01384 893001

OLDBURY 7pm
Portway Lifestyle Centre, Newbury Lane
Claire 07539 950447

TIVIDALE 7pm
Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy, Lower City Road
Sarah 07875 445462

DUDLEY 10am & 12 noon
Central Methodist Church
Cross Street
Sarah 07837 950797

DUDLEY 5pm & 7pm
Central Methodist Church
Cross Street
Sarah 07837 950797

SEDGLEY 5pm & 7pm
St Chads & All Saints Social Club, Dudley Rd
Sue 01902 882323

BRIERLEY HILL 9.15am
Nine Locks Community Centre, Hill Street
Gill 01384 830929

LYE 7pm
Lye Cricket Club, Stourbridge Road
Pauline 07999 408806

HAGLEY 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Hagley Primary School, Park Road
Terry 07807 028308

SEDGLEY/UPPER GORNAL 5pm & 7pm
St Chads & All Saints Social Club, Dudley Road
Sue 01902 882323

FRIDAY

NEW GROUP
ROWLEY REGIS 9.30am
Dudley Golf Club, Turners Hill
Stacey 07411 486694

NEW TIMES
KINGSWINFORD 9.30am & 11.30am
St Mary's Church Hall, The Village
Sue 07825 354224

STOURBRIDGE 9.30am
Bonded Warehouse, Canal Street
Joanne 07725 987340

SEDGLEY 9.30am
Sedgley Community Centre, Ladies Walk (access via the priory)
Gareth 07517 675787

ROWLEY REGIS 9.30am
Rowley Regis Disability Centre, 26 Rowley Village
Kenton 07982 408088

SATURDAY

NEW GROUP
BROMLEY/ KINGSWINFORD
8.30am
The Dingle Community Centre, Madley Rd
Vicky 07906 875612

NEW GROUP
PEDMORE 9am
Chawn Hill Church, Chawn Hill
Pauline 07999 408806

NEW TIMES
LOWER GORNAL
7.45am, 9.45am & 11.45am
Roberts Primary, Robert Street
Sarah 07837 950797

HAWBUSH/BRIERLEY HILL
7.30am, 9.30am & 11.15am
Oakfield Community Centre, Brettle Lane
Joanne 07725 987340

CRADLEY 8am & 10am
Netherend Centre, Mogul Lane
Amanda 07862 274058

OLDBURY 9am & 11am
Portway Lifestyle Centre, Newbury Lane
Kenton 07982 408088

Lauren reached her dream weight – read her story online

slimmingworld.co.uk

Slimming WORLD
touching hearts, changing lives

LIFE Styles...

Studio 62 Kitchens

In the heart of Gornal Village you will find Studio 62's showroom. Since opening nearly 5 years ago it has gained an enviable reputation for reliability and quality, offering an excellent design and fitting service. The business is a family concern and is managed by son Joe, a carpenter by trade, who has a long history of design and installation experience, having worked in a specialist renovation business for several years.

Studio 62 focuses on kitchens, from the personalised design stage , taking into account the customer's needs and requirements, right through to the planning and installation and all of the supporting work, such as building works, tiling, plumbing, electrics, even decorating - as much (or as little) as you want. Studio 62 will organise and manage the whole job, and will take full responsibility. You get only one, fully itemised, quote for all the work required.

Drop in to the showroom in Louise St, Gornal, and see the new displays complete with the latest Siemens and Neff appliances. There's lots of ideas for all the other elements of a kitchen to make yours unique. Choose Studio 62 for your new kitchen and we guarantee you won't be disappointed.

62 Louise Street, Gornal, Dudley DY3 2UB
Telephone: 01384 455755

LD Communications

We specialise in mobile phone, tablet and laptop repairs, sales and accessories as well as unlocking devices from a network. We are a team with a combined wealth of experience in meeting all mobile phone, tablet, laptop & PC repairs and service requirements. With our retail store having been established for over three years we continue to serve the local community and West Midlands areas with customer satisfaction being paramount in everything that we do. We commit ourselves to offering after sales and repairs support.

We aim for a same day turnaround on most repairs with many being done within the hour. Our repairs come complete with warranty as do all the mobile phones, laptops & tablets that we sell.

Prior to work being carried out we always give a quote and agree to a fixed price with a no fix no fee policy.

Whilst being competitively priced, we

work closely with suppliers to ensure we supply the best quality parts and accessories. We stock many genuine, original parts and accessories for all market leading manufacturer brands.

Cash paid for your unwanted working and non working devices. Unlike having to mail your items in for a test, we can assess them say day and pay cash or money in to your bank account.

Call out service available.

Abbey Street, Lower Gornal DY3 2ND
Telephone: 01384 254747

Grandpa's Sweet Shop

Located in the heart of Wall Heath Village, Grandpa's Sweet Shop has now been open just over 12 months.

We stock a range of traditional, retro and modern sweets. We also have a great range of sugar free products to try as well.

Along with sweets and ice cream you will find; retro toys, mugs and lots of lovely non sweet gifts as well as sweet hampers, bouquets, jars for you to fill with your favourites and much more!

We even do party cones and favours for your special occasions!

This a year as well as our physical shop we

will be moving online as well with our brand new website which will allow you to shop online and purchase anything from a bag of sweets to a whole hamper!

Keep checking our Facebook page for the latest updates.

13 Enville Road, Wall Heath DY6 0JT
Telephone: 01384 270146

FOOD HYGIENE RATING 5

Barnardo's

What is fostering?

Whether you can provide support for a few days or even years, fostering can be an incredibly rewarding experience.

Who can foster?

Our foster carers have a variety of life experience. We welcome enquiries from all potential carers, regardless of their background.

What happens?

Information about each stage of the process from application, to placement and beyond. We'll be there every step of the way.

Types of fostering

There are different types of fostering, including emergency overnight care and supporting young parents.

Enquire

Make a difference with Barnardo's. Complete our online form, call 0800 02777 280 or attend an information event.

Fostering support

Our experts will be there for you every step of the way. Find out about the support available if you foster with Barnardo's.

www.barnardos.org.uk/fosters
Telephone: Contact Tracey on 0121 550 5271

MT Skips Grab Hire

Local firm MT Skips offer a friendly service to cover all areas as well as a range of sizes of skips. They promise same day delivery and will also remove scrap cars FREE. They are open seven days a week. They also provide a grab hire service,So for a prompt, professional service that's value for money, use MT Skips, as they say "YOU FILL EM WE MT EM"

Central Trading Estate, Shaw Road, Dudley DY2 8QX
Telephone: 07920 885774 or 01384 240956

Netherton Service Centre

Right in the heart of the Black Country you will find local firm Netherton Service Centre, for over 13 years they have provided a first class service to the community.

They specialise in car repairs and car body repairs as well as MOT's. They offer a quality and professional service coupled with a warm Black Country welcome.

Netherton Service Centre
Established 20 years
All servicing and repairs carried out
Class 7 and Class 4 MOT Station
Free Quotes on all repairs
Telephone: 01384 458704
Unit 6, Corbetts Trading Estate, Cinder Bank, Netherton, Dudley

Corbett Industrial Units, Cinder Bank, Dudley DY2 9BG
Telephone: 01384 458704

IMPROVE YOUR CAREER PROSPECTS IN 2017

Dudley College HIGHER EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL

WITH OUR PROFESSIONAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES AT DUDLEY COLLEGE

Courses starting early 2017 in:

- Accounting
- Business
- Early years advanced practitioner
- Education & training
- Electrical & electronic
- Electrical installation
- Health & social care
- Management
- Mechanical engineering
- Purchasing supply
- Sales & marketing.

Many of our professional courses are eligible for an Advanced Learner or Higher Education Loan. Visit us on our enrolment days:

Tuesday 3rd January 9am – 7pm

Wednesday 4th January 9am – 7pm

Thursday 5th January 9am – 7pm

Friday 6th January 9am – 4pm

LEARN NOW, PAY LATER

You only have to start making repayments when you have finished your course and earning over £21,000 a year.

For more information and to apply online visit: **www.dudleycol.ac.uk**

hands-on **thinking** Since 1862

De Rosa INSTALLATIONS LTD Est 1997

Check us out online at
www.derosawindows.co.uk
www.derosaroofing.co.uk
or call us on 01902 897111

Windows A++ rated 40mm triple glazed or 28mm double glazed A rated as standard

January Sale Now On CALL FOR DETAILS

Swish Roofline products

50 Year Guarantee on white Fascias, Soffits and Guttering

No Deposit taken. Payment on completion.

Stunning designs available on our solid and secure composite doors

FREE insulation with all our Sarnafil Roofing Systems

50 year life expectancy on our maintenance free Sarnafil Roof System

Unit 42, Wombourne Enterprise Park, Bridgnorth Road, Wombourne, WV5 0AL

Like us on Follow us on Follow us on

Not in conjunction with any other offer. Offers for a limited time only.

Magnet Kitchen One

New Store Now Open in Dudley

Introducing Kitchen One by Magnet, an exciting new store from the UK's leading kitchen specialist.

There's over 40 affordable kitchens in stock to take away today, plus a wide range of appliances, accessories and flooring to complete your project.

With kitchens from only £759 – why delay? Call in to our new flagship Dudley store today and get an instant quote.

ONE BOX from Magnet

8 unit kitchens from **£759** Furniture only price

Simply MAGNET

8 unit kitchens from **£885** Furniture only price

Find us at: Unit 1 Ionic Park, Birmingham New Road, Dudley DY1 4SJ

Tel: 0121 520 6907 or visit us online at **kitchen-one.co.uk**

2017 PART-TIME COURSES

Dudley College ADULT LEARNERS

Are you thinking of changing your career? Returning to work after a break from employment? Starting your own business? Preparing for university?

Are you looking for a promotion? Do you want to gain more skills for personal confidence or simply to have a go at something new?

We are offering a range of part-time courses, starting early 2017 including:

- Abrasive wheels
- Access to Higher Education
- Accounting
- Associateship in glass
- Book keeping
- Brickwork
- CAD
- 3D CAD
- Carpentry
- CNC introduction part programming
- Cookery skills
- Education & training
- Electrical installations
- English & maths
- Health care/nursing
- Hot glass
- Hydraulic systems
- Introduction to welding
- Mechanical engineering
- Plastering
- Programming concepts
- Solid works.

For course and enrolment details visit **www.dudleycol.ac.uk**

hands-on **thinking** Since 1862

Last service is held at landmark church St John's

THEY came to share memories and worship for the final time at the church which has meant so much to them.

Packed into the entrance hall at the back of St John's United Reformed Church in Stourbridge were around 40 people, the congregation for its final Sunday service on New Year's Day.

With just eight regular attendees and a growing list of repairs needed on the Grade-II listed building, the decision was somewhat inevitable, but no less upsetting.

Lay preacher Jon Syed conducted the final service which included carefully selected readings that reflected on the bringing to a close more than 150 years of worship at the church.

After reading Psalm 84, Longing for God's House, he told the congregation: "There is a saying that God's house is not everything but what is important is the nearness to God. That is what is important. We lose a building but God is always with us. That is the important bit."

Worship will no longer be held at St John's United Reformed Church, Stourbridge

In recent years St John's, near the Stourbridge ring road, as continued to a play a key role in the community. Black Country Radio was based there until it recently moved to Brierley Hill and the Black Country Foodbank also calls the church home. Rainbows and Guides meet weekly at the building.

Mr Syed, aged 76, of Amblecote, said: "The main problem we have had is people getting older and passing away. That has really reduced our numbers. It is those churches which have young people which flourish.

"As for the future of the building I don't think we will get the point where it is boarded-up and left. There are people doing their level best to create a community hub here. That is what I would like to see now."

For more stores please visit:

Melvyn

Cash4Clothes.co.uk

CASH PAID INSTANTLY!

We pay instant £'s for your unwanted, clean and wearable clothing, paired footwear, handbags and accessories!

Simply:
1. Empty your wardrobes of all your unwanted clothing and bring them to us!
2. We check to make sure they are clean and reusable
3. We pay cash for everything that we accept - instantly!

ALDRIDGE 198B Walsall Road, WS9 0JT (opposite White House Pub)	**CANNOCK** Hollies Park Road, WS11 1DB (next to Wickes)
RUGELEY 45 Albion Street, WS15 2BY (opposite Morrisons)	**SUTTON COLDFIELD** Unit 24 Riland Ind. Est. Norris Way, B75 7BB (before the tip)
BROWNHILLS 1 Silver Court, WS8 6HA	**KIDDERMINSTER** 39 Mill Street, DY11 6XB (just off main lights)
STAFFORD Unit 3 Verulum Court, ST16 3DT (next to the tip)	**WILLENHALL** 306 Stroud Avenue, WV12 4HA
OLDBURY Unit 7a, Fountain Business Park (corner of Fountain Lane & Bromford Lane), Oldbury, B69 3BH	**HALESOWEN** Unit 5 Western Business Park, Coombs Road, Halesowen, B62 8AF

FREE COLLECTION SERVICE* Minimum of 5 black bags

AREA 1 : Stafford, Rugeley, Cannock, Burntwood, Lichfield
AREA 2 : Wolverhampton, Walsall, Willenhall, Brownhills, Bilston
AREA 3 : Dudley, Tipton, Rowley Regis, Smethwick, West Bromwich, Halesowen
AREA 4 : Kingswinford, Stourbridge, Kiddermisnter, Stourport
AREA 5 : Shifnal, Telford, Bridgnorth, Wolverhampton
* WE PAY 35P PER KG FOR COLLECTIONS!

More stores in: Bradley, Forsbrook, Chester, Coventry, Derby, Leeds, Telford & Wakefield For your nearest store visit cash4clothes.co.uk

0845 900 4044

Stores Open Mon to Sat: 9am - 4pm

WE NOW PAY 5P PER KG FOR BOOKS!

WE PAY £4.50 PER 10KG BAG

PRICES PAID PER KG

TRA

CLARKS • PUMA • GSTAR • SKECHERS • RIEKER • KICKERS

AIR TECH • DICKIES • BASE LONDON • ELLESSE • BOXFRESH • CROCS • CONVERSE

HARLEY DAVIDSON • FIRE TRAP • MERRELL • STARTRITE • GRENSON • DUNLOP • FILA

UNITED FOOTWEAR SALE NOW ON!

MANY WINTER BOOT BARGAINS! COMFY SLIPPERS! BEST BRANDS!

UNITED FOOTWEAR

80-81 High Street, Dudley, DY1 1PY

01384 238492

www.united-footwear.co.uk

STOCK UP ON SANDALS AT WINTER SALE PRICES!

CATERPILLAR • HITEC • SPOT ON • LOAKE • TIMBERLAND

Quality Kitchen Makeovers Ltd

UNBEATABLE QUALITY AND VALUE FROM THE BESPOKE SPECIALISTS

Don't Settle for Less

- Kitchens
- Bedrooms
- Bathrooms
- Extensions
- Loft Conversions
- Home Offices

From a door or worktop replacement to an extension

What our customers say...

"Wonderful kitchen, I have already recommended you and would not hesitate to recommend QKM to anyone."

"Can't believe the transformation from start to finish, totally professional."

HOMEOWNERS...

Looking to Sell?
Enhance the prospects of selling your property - stunning results for a minimum outlay

Just Moved In?
Let us help to transform your property into a dream home

Decided to Stay?
Fall in love again with your home - Revamp your kitchen, bedroom or bathroom and allow us to show your home's true potential

Bring us your dream pictures and we will bring them to life

At QKM
We are dedicated to offering our customers the finest service within the home improvement market

THE GUILD OF MASTER CRAFTSMEN
Membership No A120074

'We have customers who would be more than happy to show you the excellent standard of work'

Appliances: Neff, Bosch, Rangemaster, Belling, Hotpoint, Stoves and many more

Franke Sinks 50 Year Guarantee

The Largest Working LUCE Kitchen in the Midlands at our Netherton Showroom

All types of Flooring supplied and Wet Wall Solutions for Bathrooms

Range of Kitchens, Bedrooms and Bathrooms to suit all budgets

Did you know 80% of our customers are retired?
60% plus of all our appointments are referrals or existing customers requiring further work.
Find out why we are trusted for yourself
BOOK YOUR NO OBLIGATION QUOTE TODAY ON 01384 232413

Head Office & Showroom
149 Cinder Bank, Netherton, Dudley, DY2 9BL
01384 232413
Open Mon - Fri 9am - 5.30pm,
Thursdays 9am - 7pm
Saturdays 10am - 4pm

Stourport Showroom
33 High Street, Stourport-on-Seven DY13 8BE
01299 877718
Open Tue, Wed & Sat 10.00am - 5.30pm
Thursday 10.00am - 7.00pm
Stourport closed Monday & Friday

Customer satisfaction guaranteed.
WE WILL NOT LET YOU DOWN

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

www.qualitykitchenmakeoversltd.co.uk ***FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL***

JANUARY SALE

UP TO
60% OFF

- ★ **Free composite front door** in white on all orders over £4,500.00 (excl vat)
- ★ **Free upgrade to triple glazing** for the price of double glazing on all orders over £750.00 (excl vat)
- ★ **Free tiled/laminated flooring** on conservatory orders over £7,000.00 (excl vat)

All offers are subject to terms and conditions. Only one offer to be used per order. Offers end 31/01/17.

DIRECT FROM THE MANUFACTURERS

Conservatories - Edwardian

- Deal Direct
- Profile 22 Optima
- Sculpture 70mm sections
- A Rated
- Argon gas filled
- All colours available

COMPOSITE DOORS

Rosewood | Dark Green | Chatwell Green Stable Door | Green | Red | Black

EVER SHINE WINDOWS LTD
Specialist in Windows, Doors, Conservatories and Porches

Ward Street, Wolverhampton WV1 3LT
Phone: 01902 451 445 | FREEPHONE: 0800 023 4594
Email: info@evershinewindows.co.uk
www.evershinewindows.co.uk

FENSA Registered Company

ALLBREED GROOMING ACADEMY
Grooming is our passion and a way of life
Awarded Grooming Gold Standard
Quality assured groomers
✓ Caring ✓ Clean
✓ Safe ✓ Skilled
Salon your dogs would choose
✓ LCGI Qualified Groomer for 30 yrs
✓ Recommended by Vets
✓ Fully air conditioned building
✓ Professional & qualified groomers
✓ The only independent salon Inspected & Approved
☎ 01384 483617
Allbreed Grooming Academy

Castle Blinds & AWNINGS Of Kingswinford
Est. Over 20 years
For all your Office and Domestic Blinds Awnings and Plantation Shutters Contact
VISIT US Castleblinds.co.uk
CALL US 0800 163 429

Book-keeping, Payroll, VAT, Accountancy and Taxation
Clover Accountancy Ltd
01384 459714
www.cloveraccountancy.co.uk
barryhubble@cloveraccountancy.co.uk

Come and explore our massive store
We can uplift and remove old carpet and will move heavy furniture.
RUGS•VINYLS•KARNDEAN FLOORING •LAMINATE FLOORING•REAL WOOD FLOORING
Come along and see our huge new range of carpet
The Big Store behind the Front Door
N.D. WALTERS Carpets & Flooring
www.ndwalterscarpets.com
88/90 Dudley Rd. Sedgley Tel: 01902 883281
A FAMILY OWNED AND RUN BUSINESS FOR OVER 40 YEARS AND COUNTING

CHANGING ROOMS
Wet Room Specialists & Easy Access Bathing Solutions
Tel: 01902-670426
Email: enquiries@changingrooms.org.uk
47a Kent Street, U pper Gornal Dudley DY3 1UU

WOOD NOOK CARAVAN PARK
In the heart of the beautiful Yorkshire Dales. Holiday Homes for hire and for sale on the park, touring caravans, tents, motor-homes. Sheltered Valley setting, just 2 miles from Grassington, ideal for walkers and touring in the Dales.
WIFI AVAILABLE ACROSS THE PARK
www.woodnook.net info@woodnook.net
WOOD NOOK CARAVAN PARK
Skirethorns, Threshfield, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 5NU
Telephone 01756 752412 Fax 01756 752946
ELECTRIC HOOK-UPS NOW AVAILABLE FOR TENTS

CHRONICLE
mna media

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

MARCH

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

2017

LockRite Local Locksmith & Security Services
Lock-outs, Lost Keys, Broken Locks
Emergency lock & door opening
uPVC specialist
Key Cutting on site
British Standard insurance approved locks used - Bs3621
Double Glazing Unit Repairs
24 SERVICE
NO CALL OUT CHARGE
Call Now 01384 510135

Midland UPVC Windows and Doors Ltd
Buy British
ALL AREAS COVERED 01384 234170 / 01384 429152
VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.MIDLANDUPVC.CO.UK
midlandupvc@live.co.uk
OFFICE HOURS MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9AM TO 5PM

Quality Paving Service
NOW Approved Marshalls Registered Installer
• Driveways or Patios • Brickwork
• Block Paving • Slabbing • Fencing
With over 25 years experience and all work guaranteed, we offer competitive prices without compromising our quality
FREE ESTIMATES
Contact Phil on:
Tel: 01384 352182
Mob: 07860 493834
Covering the West Midlands

OAKMOOR FENCING & GARDENING SERVICES
Suppliers & Fitters of:
* Steel ornamental fencing & gates
* Palisade fencing
* Wooden fencing & gates
* Painting & repair work
* Grass cutting
* Weeding
* All types of gardening work
* Jet washing service
Please call 07539 941734

St Edmunds GUEST Paignton HOUSE
All Rooms En Suite
Guaranteed On-Site Parking
Child And Pet Friendly
For more details
Call 01803 558756 and quote 'Star'
www.stedmundspaignton.com

NEIL PRITCHARD
FULLY QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN
Part P Elecsa Registered
All aspects of electrical work undertaken
FREE QUOTES 07710 429 089
neilep@me.com

CROWN INN
PUB & CARVERY
With a great atmosphere and excellent reputation, our newly refurbished bar and restaurant is ideal for all the family.
Soup, Salad & Carvery
Mon - Sat 12pm - 9pm Sunday 12 - 9pm
HIGH STREET, SEDGLEY DY3 1RJ
TELEPHONE: 01902 664 308

MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE
Save £££s
All size skips and all areas covered
Same day delivery faster than a phone call!!!
SCRAP CARS REMOVED FOR FREE
Open 7 days a week
07920 88 57 74
or 01384 24 09 56
YOU FILL EM WE'LL EM
All Size Sheds & fence panels at Competitive Prices
Playhouses, Summer Houses and all types of fence panels and bays
Fitted, delivered and erected
SPECIAL OFFER 6x5 O|P only £15
M&G FENCING DUDLEY
07920 885774
01384 240956

A warm welcome awaits you at Barlows Caravan Park
• Stunning Views
• Offers peace & tranquillity
• Local lakes, golf courses & activities
• Family run site
Seasonal pitches for touring caravans available
01352 720625 or 01352 720273
Barlows Caravan Park
Caerwys
CH7 5BA
www.barlowscaravanparknorthwales.co.uk

BOOK NOW
Lovely Breaks in the Yorkshire Dales
With Meadow Holidays
COTTAGES & APARTMENTS
Treat yourself to a relaxing romantic break
Weeks from £205 per couple
Weekends from £97 per couple
Families Welcome - Breaks Available All Year
For a Brochure call
01969 663 976
email: rita@meadowholidays.com
www.meadowholidays.com

Midland Blinds & Curtains
Made to measure all types
Professional family run business
Local manufacturer
Friendly service
Established 30 years
Samples to your door - Choose at home service
No gimmicks, just bostin blinds and curtains made in the Black Country
Phone Barry on
01384 233186 or 07976 813511
"Where quality and service still count"

BOSTIN LITTLE PET SHOP
EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR YOUR PET
Situated in Concord Market, Sedgley (at the back)
Contact Darren on 07758 236937

ABLE & BROMLEY
Carpets / Beds / Suites
WHOLESALE & RETAIL WAREHOUSE
UP TO 75% OFF
Sofas, Vinyls, Laminates and Stairlifts
Est 1978
Disabled. Can't Get Out. OAP
Or anyone needing that extra help?
Can't come to us - We'll come to you
We will bring 100's of carpet samples sofa and bed brochures to your door
WE DO WHAT OTHER COMPANIES DON'T
Remove and take away old carpets/beds
Move heavy furniture and shave doors
Terms and conditions apply.
Unit D Dormston Trading Estate, Burton Road, Upper Gornal
Guaranteed fitting for Christmas
FREEPHONE COVERS ALL AREAS
0800 0853747
Dudley, Halesowen, Stourbridge, Kingswinford, Pedmore, Wolverhampton, Bilston, Coseley, Kinver, Wordsley, Pensnett, Gornal, Hagley
Adrian Bromley
01902 880541

CAFE CASITA
RISTORANTE ITALIANO
A la carte and new light lunch menu available
Also
Fancy Italian style afternoon tea?
(Pre Book Only)
Call for more details
18 Clarence Street, Dudley
DY3 1UP
01902 676754
www.cafecasita.co.uk

A-Zee Fix
DOUBLE GLAZING INSTALLATIONS & REPAIRS
Telephone: 01384 259761
Mobile: 07769 975841
70mm Internally Glazed High Security Frames
28mm Pilkington 'K' Units
Document L Compliant
Shoot Bolt Locking
Sight Line Glazing
Secured By Design PAS023 / PAS024
White
Light Oak
Rosewood
Woodgrain on White
Repairs and Upgrades
Insurance Work
Failed Units
Broken Locks
Door Panels
Letter Boxes
Sticking Doors
Handles and Mechanisms
ALL WORK GUARANTEED PHONE TODAY FOR A FREE QUOTATION

Castle & Crystal Credit Union
Your local community bank
Ethical savings accounts, Affordable loans
Not-for-profit financial co-operative
Membership available to everyone who lives or works within the borough of Dudley
Apply online today
www.castleandcrystal.co.uk
25 New Street, Dudley DY1 1LT 01384 815771
@Castle_Crystal
/CastleCrystalCreditUnion
Dudley
Castle and Crystal Credit Union is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Firm reference number 213711

In an ever changing media landscape the 'ultra local' free weekly Chronicle titles remain a powerful force for advertisers. Local media is still the most effective platform for driving consumer action. Why not make our coverage and readership work for you and choose your audience from one or more of these Chronicles; Wolverhampton, Dudley, Stourbridge, Halesowen, Cannock, Sandwell and Walsall. ***For more information call our advertisement manager Kim Hazel on 01902 319660.***

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SPECIAL OFFER - 3 NIGHTS FOR THE PRICE OF 2
Shropshire / Welsh Border
4 Log Cabins set in beautiful woodland surroundings
Available ALL YEAR ROUND for Weekly & Weekend Breaks
Speciality riding lessons available
Hot Tubs available
Contact Pam Hanson on
01691 830608 / 07710 735575
www.penycoedridingstables.co.uk

Cambridge Weight Plan & Tanning Centre
Courses available
100 minutes - £30
60 minutes - £20
Sedgley Weight Loss Centre
106 Bilston Street, Sedgley, Dudley DY3 1JF
Cambridge
Kay Bowen Tel: 01902 673441/07528 126612
kay.bowen@blueyonder.co.uk
www.facebook.com/sedgleytanningcentre

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES
Self Assessment Tax Returns
Business Accounts
Corporation Tax
Bookkeeping and VAT
Business Start-ups
Company Formations
Payroll and HR
Help with CIS
Fixed Fees
Focus on what you do best and let us take care of the distractions. We specialise in:
TaxAssist Accountants
01384 913888
www.taxassist.co.uk/kingswinford

P and R Roofing
New Roofs • Re-Roofing • Roof Repairs
Guttering, Downpipes • Flat Roofs
Pointing Chimneys and Ridge Tiles
FREE ESTIMATES
Work Guaranteed
Telephone:
01384 635720

DISCOUNT DRIVEWAYS
Block Paving and Tarmac
Drives • Paths • Patios
Slabbing • Red Tarmac
Car Parks
5 Year Guarantee On All Work
Free Quotations and Advice
Tel: 01384 79900 • 07583 170190
www.discountdriveways.co.uk

Beacon Painting & Decorating
30 Years' Experience
Interior & Exterior Decorating
Commercial & Domestic
OAP Discounts
Free Quotes
Local Authority Approved
Call Paul
01384 233 668 / 07801 709607

CJ SMITH
World of Doors
01384 255172
SPECIAL OFFERS ON INTERNAL & EXTERNAL DOORS
Open 6 days Mon-Sat (Wed 9am-1pm)
www.cjsmithdoors.co.uk info@cjsmithdoors.co.uk
1 New Mill Street (off King Street) Dudley

Allwyn Windows
DOUBLE GLAZING
Manufacturers and Suppliers of
Windows, Doors,
Conservatories, Porches and Bi-Fold Doors
01384 291662 07956 230613
certass
Unit 2 Stallings Lane, Kingswinford, DY6 7HU

Believe in children
Barnardo's
Barnado's Registered Charity Nos 216250 and SC037605
PROTECT WELCOME SUPPORT
COUNSEL NURTURE EMPOWER
Service Office
10 Centre Court, Vine Lane,
Halesowen B43 3EB
0121 550 5271
Contact Tracey

Metro Glazing Ltd
Glass Merchants
Glaziers / Processors
Aquarium Manufacturers
Tel: 01384 234570
Fax: 01384 211413
Churchfield Street
Dudley DY2 8QR

KINGS OF THE ROAD
K'FORD TYRES
HUNDREDS OF PERFORMANCE AND BUDGET BRAND TYRES AVAILABLE
ALL MAJOR MANUFACTURERS
FULL FITTING SERVICE
PUNCTURE REPAIRS
FOUR TYRE FITTING BAYS
HAWKEYE ELITE LASER WHEEL ALIGNMENT
WE ALSO SUPPLY AND FIT:
POWERFLOW EXHAUSTS
BRAKE PADS & DISCS
SUSPENSION & SHOCK ABSORBERS
We offer a 24 hour, 7 day a week mobile fitting service covering the West Midlands, ensuring that great service is just a phone call away. We operate any emergency call-out service for both the AA and RAC.
Dawley Brook Road, Kingswinford DY6 7BD
01384 401656
Email: sales@kingswinfordtyres.co.uk
Web: www.kingswinfordtyres.co.uk
OPEN: MON - FRI 8.30 - 5.30, SAT 8.00 - 4.30, SUN 9.00 - 2.00
NTDA AA RAC

THE WINNALL CARAVAN PARK
Lincomb I Stourport on Severn
Worcestershire I DY13 9RG
01299 878872 I www.thewinnall.co.uk

CROCODILE COMPUTERS
Desktop & Laptop Repairs
iPad Repairs
Service & Upgrades
Data Transfer and Backups
Virus and Malware Removed
Chargers and Screens Replaced
Tel : 01384 458883
Call for free friendly advice
sales@crocodilecomputers.co.uk
Unit 6 Hillcrest Business Park, Dudley DY2 9AP

MG Marines
Marine Aquatic Specialists
WE HAVE STOCKS OF THE FOLLOWING:
Mixed colours of budgies (adult and young)
Mixed colours of canaries Mixed colours of Celestial Parrotlets
Fawn owl finches Silver bill finches Mixed zebra finches
Bengalese finches & much much more!!
Providing a second to none service and friendly advice for over 18 years
Churchfield Street Dudley Worcestershire DY2 8QR
01384 234579 | mg.marines@yahoo.co.uk
Opening Hours: Monday to Thursday 9.00 til 5.00
Friday 9.00 til 7.00 Saturday 10.00 til 5.00

Happy New Year 2017

EMPORIUM 13
Fine Gold + Silver Jewellery
Ladies Clothing
13 Dudley Street,
Sedgley DY3 1SA
01902 884772

TESTAROSSA
Unisex Hair Studio
651 Birmingham New Road
Coseley, Bilston
WV14 9JL
01902 674979

N.D. WALTERS
Carpets and Flooring
88/90 Dudley Road,
Sedgley DY3 1TA
01902 883281

THE WINNALL CARAVAN PARK
Lincomb,
Stourport on Severn
Worcestershire
DY13 9RG
01299 878872

ANDY ORMEROD
Heating & Plumbing
01384 386944
07974 549460

BOSTIN LITTLE PET STALL
Concord Market
Sedgley
07758 236937

GOULDS ELECTRICAL SUPERSTORE
Bilston Street Sedgley
DY3 1JF
01902 664121

HARTILLS
OF SEDGLEY
Unit 1D High Street
Sedgley DY3 1RP
01902 882466

ASHWOOD NURSERIES
Gift Shop, Flowers,
Plants + Cafe
all year round
01384 401996
www.ashwoodnurseries.com

MT SKIPS
Central Trading Estate
Shaw Road, Dudley
01384 240956
07920 885774

CONTESSA KITCHENS
Barnett Lane
Kingswinford DY6 9PL
01384 271588
contessakitchens.co.uk

MT SKIPS
Central Trading Estate
Shaw Road, Dudley
01384 240956
07920 885774

SNIPPERS
32 Market Street
Kingswinford
DY6 9JU
01384 401745
Find us on facebook

ALLWYN WINDOWS
Unit 2 Stallings Lane
Kingswinford. DY6 7HU
01384 291662
www.allwyn-windows.co.uk

POLRUAN COTTAGES
1 Fowey View,
The Quay
Polruan Cornwall
PL23 1PA
01726 870582

CASTLE BLINDS & AWNINGS OF KINGSWINFORD
Est over 20 years
Visit our showroom
Stream Road DY6 9NT
01384 273679
www.castleblinds.co.uk

MARY LAW CHIROPODISTS
58 Tower Street
Dudley DY1 1ND
01384 457879

LOVE THE DRESS
Catering for all occasions
37 New Street
Dudley DY1 1LT
07543 161525

WOODFARM BUILDING KENNELS
Gospel End Road
Dudley.DY3 4HA
01902 675220

MEADOW LANDS
Stays for Couples and Families
North Yorkshire
DL8 4UH
rita@meadowholidays.com
www.meadowholidays.com

BAXTERS HAIR STYLIST
1 Priory Street
Dudley. DY1 1EP
01384 253160

DIVINE FLOWERS
20 Enville Road
Wall Heath
01384 288721
Find us on facebook

BARLOWS CARAVAN PARK
01352 376005
www.barlowscaravanparknorthwales.co.uk

GRANDPA'S SWEET SHOP
13 Enville Road
Wall Heath.DY6 0JT
01384 270146
Find us on facebook

The Fireplace Studio of Sedgley
Alderwood Precinct
Northway
Sedgley
DY3 3QY
01902 662796

DUDLEY MOT
Shaw Road
Dudley
DY2 8TP
01384 257747

Warm Welcome
High Oak
Pensnett DY5 4LA
01384 262622

Crocodile Computers
Unit 6 Hillcrest
Business Park
Dudley DY2 9AP
01384 458883

MT SKIPS
Central Trading Estate
Shaw Road, Dudley
01384 240956
07920 885774

B. Shakespeare & Co. Ltd
Oak Lane,
Kingswinford
DY6 7JS
01384 296757

BORSHCH
Peartree Lane,
Dudley
DY2 0QU
01384 571879

Mystique Hair & Beauty
5 Castle Street,
Coseley WV14 9DW
01902 886119

WHITE WEDDING CARS
High Street
Pensnett DY6 8XB
01384 294823
01384 484696
07831 198222

MT SKIPS
Central Trading Estate
Shaw Road, Dudley
01384 240956
07920 885774

ROSEVILLE DENTAL
Units 7-9
Roseville Precinct
Castle Street
Coseley WV14 9EP
01902 678202

A-ZEE FIX
Double Glazing
Installations
& Repairs
01384 259761
07769 975841

LET'S DANCE DANCEWEAR
113 Bilston Street
Sedgley
DY3 1JE
01902 672939

MT SKIPS
Central Trading Estate
Shaw Road, Dudley
01384 240956
07920 885774

MIDLAND BLINDS & CURTAINS
Made to Measure -
All Types
Phone Barry on:
01384 233186
07976 813511

TAYLOR MADE SPECS OPTICIANS
6 The Arcade,
Kent Street, Upper
Gornal DY3 2DA
01902 664783

N.D. WALTERS
Carpets and Flooring
88/90 Dudley Road,
Sedgley DY3 1TA
01902 883281

WHEATMILL BAKERY
Unit 2 Lapwood
Avenue (Off Bromley
Lane) Kingswinford
DY6 8RP
01384 70035

BOXLEYS
Award Winning Butchers
Windmill Bank,
Wombourne,
Wolverhampton
01902 892359

DUDLEY TRADE FURNITURE
Peartree Lane,
Dudley
DY2 0QU
01384 484077

STUARTS CLOCKS & GIFTS
9 Townsend Place
Kingswinford.
DY6 9JL
01384 404186

DISCOUNT DRIVEWAYS
All your driverway, patio
and car park solutions
07583 170190
www.discountdriveways.co.uk

All the advertisers on this page would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year

MT SKIPS
Central Trading Estate
Shaw Road, Dudley
01384 240956
07920 885774

fast theticket

It's a ballroom blitz . . .

See Page 29

For full listings see **Express & Star** every Friday

CAFE CASITA
RISTORANTE ITALIANO
Dine at
Cafe Casita and enjoy the taste of Italy
01902 676754
18 Clarence Street, Sedgley, Dudley DY3 1UP
www.cafecasita.co.uk
tripadvisor

Tuesday-Saturday
12noon-4.00pm
EARLY BIRD LUNCH MENU
2 Courses
£10.95

- Light Lunch Menu 12pm - 5pm
- Italian Style Afternoon Tea 1pm - 4pm (Pre bookings only)
- A La Carte Menu 12pm - 9.30pm

Treat your loved one on Valentines Day and enjoy the fine taste of Italy Book Now!

Mothers Day
Sunday 26th March Book now to avoid disappointment!

2K's Travel

Private Hire • Tours • Group Travel

2017 HOLIDAYS

LLANDUDNO
CHATSWORTH HOUSE HOTEL
Monday 6th March to Friday 10th March
5 days half board
2 for 1 bar entertainment & excursions
£190.00 per person

WEYMOUTH
FAIRHAVEN HOTEL
Mon June 12th to Fri June 18th
5 days half board
Entertainment & excursions
£340.00 per person
(Single supplements £16.00 per wk.)

TORQUAY
LIVERMEAD CLIFF HOTEL
Lovely sea front location
Thursday July 6th to Tuesday 10th July
5 days half board
Entertainment & excursions
£345.00 per person (single supplements apply)

WORTHING
CHATSWORTH HOTEL
Monday 24th July to Friday 28th July
5 days half board
Entertainment & excursions
£329.00 per person

ISLE OF WIGHT
THE ROYAL PIER HOTEL, SANDOWN
Saturday 2nd September to Saturday 9th September
8 days half board
Entertainment & excursions
£399.00 per person

NEW OVER 50s FOR 2107 AVAILABLE
ALSO OTHER DAY TRIPS
Payments now accepted by card.

www.2kstravel.co.uk
Pick up times vary Ask when booking
40, Louise Street, Gornal Wood, Dudley
01902 670387

theticket

To advertise here...
Please call Marina Gibbons on
01902 319641

ANTIQUE COLLECTORS & VINTAGE FAIR
UTTOXETER RACECOURSE
(SAT NAV ST14 8BD) A518 / A38 / SIGNPOSTED A50
SATURDAY/SUNDAY
7TH & 8TH JANUARY
100 + STALLS INSIDE + OUTSIDE PITCHES
10AM - 4PM ADM.£1.50
CHILDREN FREE
PLENTY OF FREE PARKING
ANTIQUE FORUM
01782 393660 / 07921659798

Lucy o-Kay with range of big roles

Lucy in her role at the Grand Theatre

Lucy Kay shot to fame when she sang her way to the final of Britain's Got Talent in 2014.

The 27-year-old's singing career duly delivered, securing a record deal with Sony and then her debut album, Fantasia, shooting to No1 on the classical music charts.

She performed the national anthem for the 2014 Community Shield football match at Wembley in front of 80,000 alongside one of the most iconic and influential performers in opera, Andrea Bocelli.

She then topped off a remarkable year with a performance fit for royalty, singing in front of Prince Andrew, Sarah Ferguson and their two daughters along with a long line of A-listers at a private dinner held at Windsor Castle in aid of Children in Crisis.

It has been a real rags to riches story for this year's Wolverhampton pantomime princess.

It wasn't always glitz and glamour for the Leicester-born singer, who admits growing up was difficult without her father, who left when she was a baby, and bullies made much of her early life miserable. She said: "Growing up was a struggle, my childhood wasn't one you'd hope for for your children. With my dad leaving when I was born, I took that hard and assumed it was my fault.

"Apparently as I was growing up, I was always asking strangers, men, if they were my dad, which for my mum was really embarrassing. From that, when I used to make friends I used to be more needy than most, people took advantage of that which set me up for being bullied. We moved to quite a poor area of Mansfield where I got bullied for being from a different area.

"Then when I started singing, as it was classical, I got bullied for that too.

"As well as the mental abuse, there was physical abuse, I have scars from cigarettes they put out on my chest.

"It got to a point in my life where I thought, 'I'm not sure if I want to be here', and it's sad for a child to think like that."

While school bullies may have fulfilled the role of the cruel step-sisters as in Cinderella, there was a trio of strong women who stepped forward to play the role of the fairy godmother. Her mother, Glenis, proved to be a supportive role model throughout her youth and Lucy confesses it was her encouragement which got her to where she is.

Other contenders for the role include Pamela Cook, founder of Cantamus, the choir she would later join. "She helped me financially and to get to uni, she unfortunately passed away before I went on Britain's Got Talent, she would have been proud."

Elaine Guy, also from the choir group, home-tutored Lucy free of charge to resit her GCSEs and take her A-levels so she'd get into music college. She'd failed her GCSEs fist time round down to the bullying she suffered.

Lucy's big break came when she appeared in front of 2,000 people and four intimidating judges on TV show Britain's Got Talent, with 11 million people watching at home.

An edited version of proceedings didn't show Lucy sing Who Wants To Live Forever by Queen, a song chosen by the BGT producers. It was a track she wasn't comfortable singing, resulting in Simon Cowell stopping her, telling it was a bad audition and asked her for another song.

What made the cut was her version of opera song Vissi d'arte, leaving the audience and judges stunned and a standing ovation followed.

Successful

She finished runner-up in the competition and then went on to sing on several successful tours proving hugely popular as a contemporary soprano. However this year Lucy took to the stage in a different form – as the narrator in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, which proved popular at the Grand Theatre.

She said: "I was really nervous at Joseph but I got through it and I had good reviews fortunately – I had a week to learn everything."

As in all fairytales, it's happily ever after for Lucy as she's currently playing Princess Jasmine in Aladdin and thriving in her latest role.

She said: "I love the cast in Aladdin, we all get on so well and we have a good laugh when things go wrong too, which is really important.

"The Grand is a really nice venue with the revamp and Bohemians [situated across Lichfield Street] is a great bar, I love it there. Slater's is really nice too, we had our Christmas party there, everyone was really friendly."

Aladdin runs at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre until January 22.

Tickets can be bought from the box office in person or by calling 01902 42 92 12 or online at **grandtheatre.co.uk**

By Doug Wootton

● For the full interview, visit **www.expressandstar.com/entertainment/**

Gales free

'Unfortunately, you have to go through some things to be free', says Memphis-born Eric Gales.

"Now, I feel the most free I've ever been in life, even more so than when I was a kid," he opens up. "You gotta help yourself man, once you can help yourself you can genuinely help someone else."

His new album, Middle Of The Road, will be released on February 24. "It's about being fully focussed and centred in the middle of the road. If you're on the wrong side and in the gravel you're not too good and if you're on the median strip that's not too good either, so being in the middle of the road is the best place to be."

It is Gales' fourth album on Provogue/Mascot label Group after Transformation (2011), Relentless (2010) and The Psychedelic Underground (2007) and it sees him at his most expressive yet. It is a deeply personal and reflective record that echoes where he is in his life right now and he opens himself up and allows himself the chance to really flourish.

It's well documented that Gales was a child prodigy and heralded as the second coming of Jimi Hendrix when he released his debut album The Eric Gales Band in 1991 as a 16-year-old on Elektra Records. It was the first of 10 albums on a major label through a blistering career. He has released 14 studio albums in total ahead of Middle of the Road and a host of other collaborations, one of which led him to work with producer Fabrizio Grossi.

Lie-in King

A funnyman described by one national newspaper as 'unquestionably the best observational comic of his generation' is heading to Telford.

Lie-in King Seann Walsh has also been described as 'one of comedy's hottest properties...very talented, very funny'.

He has also previously toured successful show Ying and Young with fellow comedian Josh Widdicombe.

He will bring his new show to Oakengates Theatre @ The Place on Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 8pm.

Venue spokesman Chris Kowalik said: "As star of Channel 4's Stand Up For The Week and BBC1's Live At The Apollo, you might have seen Seann on TV, but he's something else live – pacing the stage, working the room and reducing crowds to hysterics. Even if he'd probably rather be at home watching Sky Sports News."

The show received positive press after being unveiled at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and fans can look forward to the usual oddball looks at everyday life from Seann.

Tickets for The Lie-in King at Oakengates Theatre @ The Place are £15.

They are on sale now and can be booked online at **www.theplacetelford.com** or by calling the box office on 01952 382382, or in person at the theatre or Southwater One in Telford Town Centre.

Hungry show

One of the most iconic characters in children's literature will be arriving in Birmingham next month when The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show plays at New Alexandra Theatre for two nights from Monday, January 30 following a West End run.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show will feature a menagerie of 75 enchanting puppets during a magical 60-minute show that faithfully adapts four of Eric Carle's best-loved books for the stage: The Artist Who Painted A Blue Horse, Mister Seahorse, The Very Lonely Firefly and, of course, The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Eric Carle's books have captivated generations of readers with their iconic hand-painted illustrations and distinctively simple stories, introducing millions of children to a bigger, brighter world, and to their first experience of reading itself.

His best-known work, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, has nibbled its way into the hearts of millions of children all over the world. It has been translated into 62 languages and sold more than 43 million copies, remaining one of the top 10 best-selling children's books of all time.

Since it was first published in 1969, Eric Carle has illustrated more than 70 books, most of which he also wrote, and more than 132 million copies of his books have sold around the world.

Strictly special start to the year

The Strictly Come Dancing glitterball champions 2016 Ore Oduba and Joanne Clifton, who will be replaced by Karen Clifton

THE final line-up for has been announced for the Strictly Come Dancing Live Tour – including dates later this month in Birmingham.

The show will feature 2016 winner Ore Oduba but instead of his glitterball winning partner Joanne Clifton, he will be dancing with her fellow professional (and sister-in-law) Karen Clifton.

Joanne is preparing to star in the UK tour of musical Thoroughly Modern Millie, which visits Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre in February.

Also in the Strictly show rom January 20 to 22 at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena will be Louise Redknapp with Kevin Clifton, Danny Mac and Oti Mabuse, people's favourite Ed Balls with Katya Jones, Daisy Lowe and Aljaž Skorjanec and Lesley Joseph with Gorka Marquez.

Completing the line-up are professional dancers Giovanni Pernice, Janette Manrara, AJ Pritchard, Chloe Hewitt, Oksana Platero and Neil Jones. The celebrities and pro dancers will be joined by judges Len Goodman, Craig Revel Horwood, who also directs the show, and Karen Hardy. The 2017 tour host is Anita Rani.

The show kicks off in Birmingham on Friday (20) at 7.30pm, Saturday (21) at 2.30pm and 7.30pm and Sunday (22) at 1.30pm and 6.30pm. Tickets are on sale from www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222. For more information, visit www.strictlycomedancinglive.com

Kara stars in a chiller

CLASSIC thriller Gas Light must be one of the few plays that has given rise to a term for psychological abuse, in that 'gaslighting' means making someone doubt their own sanity.

A fresh revival of crime writer Patrick Hamilton's play stars Kara Tointon (pictured left) as victimised wife Bella Manningham, a role vividly portrayed by Ingrid Bergman with an Oscar-winning performance in the 1944 movie.

Leading lady Kara Tointon has had West End stage success, was one of the stars of TV drama Mr Selfridge, won the 2013 series of Strictly Come Dancing and last year played Maria in ITV's The Sound of Music Live! Most recently she has been seen in ITV's new hotel-based wartime drama The Halcyon.

Also appearing in the spooky stage drama set in fog-bound Victorian London is Merlin actor Rupert Young, brother of singer Will, as her husband. Keith Allen plays a detective who makes a shocking discovery. He is a familiar face from stage, film and TV, still perhaps best known as the dastardly Sheriff of Nottingham in TV's Robin Hood. He is also a father of six including pop singer Lily Allen and Game of Thrones star Alfie Allen.

Gaslight starts a UK tour at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre, where it runs from January 6 to 14, its only Midlands dates.

Bowie tribute close to first anniversary

JUST three days before the first anniversary of David Bowie's death, one of the top Bowie tribute acts, Jean Genie, will be presenting a homage to the influential rock star.

Walsall-based John Mainwaring has been performing his tribute to Bowie for more than 20 years and brings his show to Bilston's Robin 2 venue on Saturday.

Also coming up at the Robin this Friday is Steely Dan tribute Nearly Dan. On Sunday 'space rock' pioneer Nik Turner, former saxophone player with Hawkwind, brings the latest version of Space Ritual to the Mount Pleasant venue.

Band in city music store acoustic set

ROCK band You Me At Six release fifth studio album, Night People, tomorrow (Friday) and fans can get a preview when they appear that day at 5.30pm for an acoustic set and album signing at hmv Birmingham.

A limited edition hmv exclusive picture disc vinyl version of the album will be available on a first come first served basis at the Bullring store. Wristbands will be available by pre-ordering the album from the store, one per person. Any remaining wristbands will be issued on the day for those buying the album.

The band are in concert at Birmingham O2 Academy on April 10.

Jump and jive with King Pleasure

KING Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys' zany stage show sometimes belies the fact that they are one of the finest bands celebrating early rhythm and blues bands to come from outside the USA.

The Brum-based band carries a guarantee of great swinging music and high entertainment value and last year the high-octane jump and jive outfit were spreading their message throughout Europe promoting their 11th CD Live at Last.

King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys are performing at Artrix Theatre in Bromsgrove on Saturday, then at Bilston's Robin 2 on January 26 with Ricky Cool.

SALTWELLS INN
"Good Food at Great Prices"
Food Served Sun-Thur 12 noon - 9pm
Fri & Sat 12 noon - 10pm
TWO MEALS FOR £10 ALL DAY ... EVERY DAY
*Gammon *Plaice *Steak & Ale Pie *Cheesy Pasta *8oz Rump *Sausage & Mash *Chilli
Tuesday
PIE AND PUD NIGHT
£6.95
FROM 5PM
Wednesday
THE BURGER CLUB
£6.95
Thursday
CURRY NIGHT
Order any Curry and Get a Pint of Carlsberg or Tetleys for just £1.00
FROM 5PM
Friday
STEAK NIGHT
x 2 Sirloins for £10.00
x 2 T-Bones for £20.00
Mon - Fri
CARVERY
12 - 3PM
Sunday
ROAST
12 - 5PM
Full Menu Available
SALTWELLS LANE, DUDLEY DY5 1AX
www.saltwellsinn.co.uk 01384 569224

GTL * GTL * GTL *GTL
QUALITY COACH HOLIDAYS
Britain & Europe
CALL 01384 377060
2017
COACH HOLIDAY BROCHURE OUT NOW !!
Packed full of great holidays to suit all budgets, with a range of great weekends, short breaks, scenic holidays throughout Britain & Ireland as well as a selection of European Holidays
For your free copy phone us now on
01384 377060
or visit our website www.grouptravel.ltd.uk

LONDON THEATRE
GREAT WEEKEND BREAKS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR TO THE WEST END FROM £139.50 pp

WICKED	£169.50	MAMMA MIA	£169.50	MOTOWN	£162.50
42nd STREET	£179.50	LION KING	£175.00	MATILDA	£167.50
PHANTOM	£169.50	DREAM GIRLS	£162.50	THE GIRLS	£162.50
LES MIS	£167.50	BAT OF OF HELL	£167.50	MOUSETRAP	£139.50

The above are just a selection of shows we offer, all prices are per person based on sharing a twin/double room in the 4* Leonardo Hotel Heathrow with 1 night bed & breakfast plus Saturday Night Theatre Ticket & GTL luxury coach travel. Call now for full details on all departure dates & shows we offer

Great DAYS OUT
We offer a great variety of day excursions throughout the year that will leave you spoilt for choice!
From Train Journeys, to scenic Boat Trips, shopping to Historic Houses, Royal Residences, Mystery Trips, Garden, Park & Flower Shows, Towns & Cities plus a whole lot more... phone now for our latest brochure
GROUP TRAVEL LIMITED
AUDNAM
STOURBRIDGE
DY8 4AG,
TEL : 01384 377060 or freephone 0800 002 9788
www.grouptravel.ltd.uk

CHOICE

Tom Hardy

Taboo (BBC1, 9.15pm)
New series. Historical drama starring Tom Hardy as adventurer James Delaney, who reappears in London in 1814 after being presumed dead in Africa many years before, and seeks vengeance for the death of his father. Set to inherit what is left of his family's shipping empire, his arrival not only threatens to disrupt the plans of his half-sister Zilpha and her husband Thorne, but also the political ambitions of the mighty East India Company, chaired by Sir Stuart Strange. Oona Chaplin, Jefferson Hall and Jonathan Pryce also star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Live Athletics – Great Edinburgh Cross Country. Coverage from Holyrood Park. **3.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.20** BBC News. **5.30** Regional Programme. **5.40** Celebrity Mastermind. Famous faces settle into the black chair to answer questions on their chosen subjects. The second round sees them putting their general knowledge to the test in a bid to carry off the commemorative trophy.

6.10 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a Radio 2-themed edition of the unorthodox quiz, featuring Jo Whiley, Jeremy Vine, Zoe Ball, Michael Ball, Ken Bruce, Anneka Rice, Vanessa Feltz and Craig Charles. With a performance by Mika.

7.00 Let It Shine. New series. Talent search to find five performers to play the role of a boy band in a new nationwide touring musical, featuring the music of Take That. In this first episode, the hopefuls audition solo in front of the judging panel, made up of Gary Barlow, Dannii Minogue, Martin Kemp and Amber Riley, and perform before a studio audience in Manchester.

8.25 Casualty. Dylan becomes the source of gossip after Seb's allegation, but Max and Jez are determined to help him and try to record Seb confessing his guilt. Alicia and Ethan wake up together in blissful happiness, but are forced to face the consequences of their actions, and Connie spots something in Grace's medical notes that leads her to reporting Elle to the GMC.

9.15 Taboo. New series. Historical drama starring Tom Hardy as adventurer James Delaney, who reappears in London in 1814 after being presumed dead in Africa many years before.

10.10 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights from the third round of the FA Cup, including Manchester United v Reading, Everton v Leicester City and Sutton United v AFC Wimbledon.

12.00 Film: The Double. (2011) **1.35** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.40** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Coast. (R) **6.50 Film:** No Minor Vices. (1948) **8.25 Film:** Angels One Five. (1953) **10.00** Secret Britain. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Exploring China: A Culinary Adventure. (R) **1.00** Child Stars: Talking Pictures. (R) **1.35 Film:** Cimarron. (1960) Western, starring Glenn Ford. **4.00** Mastermind. (R) **4.30** University Challenge. (R) **5.00** Only Connect. (R) **5.30** The World's Most Extraordinary Homes. (R)

6.30 Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise. Exploring the wildlife and culture of the Southeast Asian nation. The first episode examines the south of the country, a popular tourist destination for Westerners, and examines the role of spirituality in daily life. Narrated by Sophie Okonedo. (R)

7.30 Britain's Ancient Capital: Secrets of Orkney. An investigation into how recent archaeological finds on the archipelago indicate that Orkney was the cultural capital of Stone Age Britain and the birthplace of the stone circle cult. Chris Packham uncovers the secrets revealed by the DNA of Orkney's unique vole, Neil Oliver explores tombs and monuments, Shini Somara experiments to discover how ancient Orcadians could have moved giant blocks of stone over rough ground, and Andy Torbet climbs a challenging sea-stack to unlock the story of Orkney's unusual geology. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. With the Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard now established, Captain Mainwaring sets about trying to get equipment for the platoon. (R)

9.00 Bowie: The Last Five Years. A portrait of David Bowie, told by the people who knew him best – his friends and artistic collaborators. It also takes a detailed look at his last albums The Next Day and Blackstar, and his play Lazarus. Through the prism of this last work, the film shows how, in his final five years, Bowie not only began producing music again but returned to the core and defining themes of his career. Among the contributors are Tony Visconti, Toni Basil and Michael C Hall.

10.30 Film: The Man Who Fell to Earth. (1976) Nicolas Roeg's sci-fi drama, starring David Bowie.

12.45 Film: Walkabout. (1971) **2.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Oddbods. (R) **7.20** Oddbods. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.55** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School. **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Thunderbirds Are Go. **10.00** Rebound. (R) **11.00** Guess This House. (R) **12.00** Bargain Shop Wars. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Judge Rinder. (R) **1.35 Film:** Kindergarten Cop. (1990) Comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. **3.40** Morecambe and Wise's Funniest Moments. (R) **5.35** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 You've Been Framed! Unchained!

7.00 Ninja Warrior UK. Competitors from across the UK test their strength, speed and courage in this obstacle-course challenge, hosted by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara.

8.00 The Voice UK. New series. The singing contest returns, although things have changed. Much like the spinning chairs at the centre of the show, the former BBC One programme has done a 180-degree turn and is now part of ITV's prime-time Saturday. There are also new coaches as Jennifer Hudson – the US singer and actress who rose to fame on American Idol – and Gavin Rossdale, singer and guitarist with rock band Bush – join old hands Will.i.am and Tom Jones. Fans will also be relieved that host Emma Willis is back to keep things ticking over. As usual, things kick off with the blind auditions, in which the coaches sit with their backs to the would-be singing stars, selecting the ones they like by vocal ability alone.

9.35 Through the Keyhole. Keith Lemon visits mystery celebrity homes and challenges this week's panel – Fearne Cotton, Will Mellor and Judge Rinder – to guess the identities of the famous owners.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.45 Film: Jaws: The Revenge. (1987) **12.25** Jackpot247. **3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.00** The King of Queens. (R) **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.50** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.20** Frasier. (R) **8.50** Frasier. (R) **9.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.50** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.15** The Simpsons. (R) **10.45** The Simpsons. (R) **11.15** The Simpsons. (R) **11.45** A New Life in the Sun. (R) **12.45** Darts: BDO Lakeside World Professional Championships. The opening day of the BDO World Championships. **5.30** Speed with Guy Martin. (R)

7.00 Channel 4 News.

7.30 Britain's Favourite TV Detectives. Documentary seeking to identify Britain's favourite on-screen detective via a YouGov poll. These fictional crime-fighters have been a staple of TV schedules for more than half a century, and as the results of the poll count down to reveal the UK's most cherished TV sleuth, New Tricks stars Amanda Redman and Dennis Waterman, Starsky & Hutch's David Soul, and Foyle's War creator Anthony Horowitz discuss the enduring appeal of a good mystery.

9.00 Film: Ride Along. (2014) Premiere. A wannabe police officer persuades his girlfriend's tough detective brother to take him along on duty. The cop hopes to scare his unwanted partner away from his sister by exposing him to danger – but needs some help when the patrol leads to a run-in with the city's most wanted criminal. Comedy, starring Ice Cube, Kevin Hart and Laurence Fishburne.

10.55 Film: The Mechanic. (2011) A solitary hitman teaches his murdered mentor's son the tricks of the trade so they can join forces to seek vengeance. Action thriller remake, starring Jason Statham.

12.45 Derren Brown: Infamous. The illusionist's sell-out stage show recorded at the Grand Theatre in Leeds. (R) **2.15** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Ryan tells Mercedes that he is being blackmailed over their night together, and Tom is guilt-ridden when he hears about Sally's money troubles since Jude's scam. **4.20** Shipping Wars UK. Stu and Jemma transport a sailing boat from Cornwall to North Yorkshire. (R) **5.05** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. Creating a romantic bedroom. (R) **5.20** The Restoration Man. George Clarke revisits the restoration of water mill in Northumberland. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.55** The Fairly OddParents. (R) **10.30** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **11.25** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **12.25** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **1.20** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **2.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **3.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **4.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.15 NCIS: Los Angeles. New series. The agents search for Hetty in Romania and stake out the Comescu beach house, hoping to confirm she is alive. Real-time episode, starring Chris O'Donnell.

7.05 NCIS: Los Angeles. The CEO of a software company linked to a cyber-attack against the Department of Defence is kidnapped, and Kensi and Deeks go undercover to protect the man's family after fears over their safety. Meanwhile, Callen continues to research his past.

8.00 NCIS. New series. The American crime drama following the work of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service returns, as Gibbs fights for his life on board a US Navy hospital ship after being shot. Meanwhile, DiNozzo and Joanna Teague head for Shanghai, where they hope to take down the leaders of the terrorist group known as The Calling. Starring Mark Harmon, Michael Weatherly and Mimi Rogers.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the residents' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to their housemates' quirks and foibles while also coping with the day-to-day complications of life inside the house.

10.00 Film: Sex Tape. (2014) Premiere. A couple try to spice up their marriage by filming themselves having sex, but then have to stop anyone from seeing the footage. Comedy, with Cameron Diaz and Jason Segel. Including 5 News Update at 11pm.

11.50 Lip Sync Battle UK: Danny Dyer vs Craig Revel Horwood. Melanie Brown and Professor Green present the musical game show as actor Danny Dyer and dancer Craig Revel Horwood go head to head lip-synching to a hit song. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **4.00** World's Strongest Man 2016. (R) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Why the Industrial Revolution Happened Here **8.00** The Magic of Mushrooms **9.00** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **10.00** The Young Montalbano **11.50** An Evening with Sammy Davis Jr **12.50** Sammy Davis Jr: The Kid in the Middle **1.50** Sings the Great American Songbook **2.55** An Evening with Sammy Davis Jr **3.50** Close

ITV2
11.55 Take Me Out Celebrity Special **12.55** Ninja Warrior UK **1.55 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **2.55** FYI Daily **3.00 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **3.45 Film:** Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **4.45** FYI Daily **4.50 Film:** Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **5.25 Film:** King Kong (2005) **6.25** FYI Daily **6.30 Film:** King Kong (2005) **9.00 Film:** The Bourne Supremacy (2004) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** The Bourne Supremacy (2004) **11.15** Family Guy **12.45** American Dad! **1.40** Dads **2.05** Safeword **2.40** The Hot Desk: Caroline Flack **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.15 Inspector Morse **6.05** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Lewis **1.05** Blue Murder **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.00 Film: Shalako (1968) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15 Film:** Shalako (1968) **1.20** Sporting Funnies **1.30** ITV Racing Live from Sandown. Coverage of races from Sandown and Wincanton. **4.00** Pawn Stars **6.50** Mr Bean **8.00** River Monsters **9.00 Film:** Cliffhanger (1993) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** Cliffhanger (1993) **11.15 Film:** On Deadly Ground (1994) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20 Film:** On Deadly Ground (1994) **1.20** Minder **2.20** Tommy Cooper **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen

E4
11.00 Black-ish **12.00 Film:** A Monster in Paris (2011) **1.45** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **2.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Speed (1994) **11.20** Gogglebox **1.30** Rude Tube: Welcome to 2017 **3.25** New Girl **4.10** Suburgatory **4.55** Revenge

Film4
11.00 Thunderbirds Are Go! (1966) **1.00** The Family Stone (2005) **3.05** Fast Girls (2012) **4.50** Young Sherlock Holmes (1985) **7.00** Volcano (1997) **9.00** The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (2013) **11.45** Baskin (2015) **1.40** Wake in Fright (1971) **4.00** Close

Star Reader Travel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind
Return coach travel from Dudley, Halesowen and Stourbridge
Your Chronicle in association with Omega ABTA The Travel Association

FLOWERING EVENTS
Whether you're a green-fingered gardening guru, a floral art fanatic or a nervous horticultural novice, there's inspiration galore to be had at Britain's favourite flower and garden shows.

BEST SELLER!
CHELSEA
Flower Show and Oxford
Departing Friday 26 May 2017
Price Includes...
✔ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star outer London/ Reading hotel with 3-course dinner and full English breakfast
✔ Admission to the Chelsea Flower Show, with coach transfer
✔ Free time in Oxford
2 days, by coach
Only £199.95pp

Quote Code: WQR574

View product online at www.omega-holidays.com/WQR574
Single room supplement £30pp. Subject to availability.

FLORIMANIA
at Hampton Court & Windsor

Quote Code: TPJ463
Departing Saturday 25 March 2017
Price Includes...
✔ Overnight stay at a 4 star hotel within 20 miles of central London with 3-course dinner and full English breakfast
✔ Admission to Florimania and Hampton Court Palace and grounds
2 days, by coach
only £139.95pp
View product online at www.omega-holidays.com/TPJ463
Single room supplement £30pp. Subject to availability.
The perfect treat for mums everywhere on this Mother's Day weekend.

Quote Code: REQ165
CHATSWORTH
Flower Show and Harrogate
Departing Saturday 10 June 2017

Price Includes...
✔ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star Yorkshire area hotel with 3-course dinner and full English breakfast
✔ Admission to the RHS Chatsworth Flower Show
✔ Free time in Harrogate
2 days, by coach
only £149.95pp
View product online at www.omega-holidays.com/REQ165
Single room supplements £30pp. Subject to availability.

For more information or to book, please call: 01902 902165
OPENING TIMES: MON-FRI 8.30-19.00 SAT 8.30-16.00 SUN 10.00-16.00
Organised by Omega Holidays plc, ABTA V4782.
OmegaHols @OmegaHols OmegaHols

CHOICE

Ashley Banjo (left)

Dance Dance Dance (ITV, 6.30pm)

New series. Alesha Dixon and Will Best host a celebrity dance contest. The show features five famous contestants, who are unconfirmed at the time of going to press, each of whom will be paired with a dance partner. The couples will take on the challenge of recreating iconic dance routines featured in movies or music videos. Ashley Banjo, leader of street dance troupe Diversity, and choreographers Tina Landon and Timor Steffens make up the panel of expert judges who will be assessing their talents on the dance floor.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Songs of Praise. **1.50** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.35** Life in the Snow. (R) **3.35** Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup. Tottenham Hotspur v Aston Villa (Kick-off 4.00pm).

6.05 BBC News.

6.20 Regional Programme.

6.30 Countryfile. Matt Baker examines how the Shropshire landscape has been shaped by the history of mining, and Anita Rani visits a camping site that has been set up in a scrap yard. Adam Henson presents the first in a series of reports from New Zealand, Charlotte Smith examines a rise in dementia in rural communities, and chef Michael Caines goes camping in Dartmoor. Including weather for the week ahead.

7.30 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents a second visit to Tewkesbury Abbey in Gloucestershire. The experts examine a heavy Tudor table that requires six men to move it, an extensive collection of Maundy money, a signed picture of Chairman Mao by Andy Warhol, and a rare 18th-century painted silk dress that has been left in a dressing up box for 50 years.

8.30 Still Open All Hours. Eric, Cyril and Mr Newbold try to prove they have it in them to be exciting, while Granville tries to shift a consignment of mints that are past their sell by date.

9.00 Sherlock. The detective faces a dangerous new enemy in the seemingly unassailable Culverton Smith, a man whose position of power conceals a terrible secret. Estranged from John, Sherlock must confront his demons to defeat his enemy's plans. Toby Jones guest stars as the villain.

10.30 BBC News.

10.50 Regional Programme.

11.00 MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. A review of the latest third-round matches, featuring Tottenham Hotspur v Aston Villa and Liverpool v Plymouth Argyle or Newport County.

12.05 The Celebrity Apprentice USA. **1.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **6.55** Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) **7.55** An Island Parish. (R) **8.25** The Edible Garden. (R) **8.55** Countryfile. (R) **9.55** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.25** The Good Cook. (R) **11.55** Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. (R) **12.25** Richard Harris: Talking Pictures. (R) **1.00 Film:** Cromwell. (1970) Historical drama, starring Richard Harris and Alec Guinness. **3.15** Flog It! (R) **4.15** Life in Polar Bear Town with Gordon Buchanan. (R) **5.15** Yellowstone: The Wildest Winter. (R)

6.15 Ski Sunday. All the news, gossip and action from the piste.

7.00 School Swap: Korea Style. Part one of two. Three teenagers from Pembrokeshire swap their classrooms, teachers and parents for a school in South Korea, which boasts one of the best education systems in the world – and one of the toughest. For three days, they live and breathe Korean education to find out the secret to its success. Can they hack it? Sian Griffiths presents.

8.00 Dragons' Den. Evan Davis presents the business ideas contest, with panellists Deborah Meaden, Peter Jones, Touker Suleyman, Sarah Willingham and Nick Jenkins examining the profit-making potential of inflatable igloos, a restaurant serving meat-free hot dogs, and a new kind of pooper-scooper. Presented by Evan Davis.

9.00 Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise. Exploring the forests, plains and bustling cities of Central Thailand, an area known as the nation's rice bowl. The programme explores how people live alongside animals in these areas, and the spiritual fulfillment to be found in these relationships. Narrated by Sophie Okonedo.

10.00 Film: A Most Violent Year. (2014) Premiere. An immigrant living in New York in 1981 struggles to keep his business going against an unrelenting rise in violent crime. Thriller, with Oscar Isaac and Jessica Chastain.

12.00 QI XL. With Phill Jupitus, Holly Walsh and Nish Kumar. **12.45** Sign Zone: Countryfile. Anita Rani visits Malham Cove in the Yorkshire Dales, where she climbs a cliff face and meets an artist pursuing a family tradition. (R) **1.45** Holby City. (R) **2.40** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Oddbods. (R) **7.20** Oddbods. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.55** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30 Film:** Carry On Up the Jungle. (1970) **11.15** Chopping Block. (R) **12.15** ITV News. **12.25** Tipping Point. (R) **1.25** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **2.30** The Voice UK. (R) **4.00** The Big Soap Quiz: Coronation Street vs Emmerdale. (R) **5.00** Regional Programme. **5.15** ITV News. **5.30** Unbelievable Moments Caught on Camera. Alastair Stewart presents a selection of extraordinary eyewitness footage filmed by members of the public, featuring a wedding that was ruined by a sandstorm, the rescue of a fox cub from a drain, cyclists being chased by an ostrich, a train that crashed into a truck at a level crossing, a paraglider's painful crash landing, and a musical moment that raised thousands for charity and started an 80-year-old grandfather's recording career.

6.30 Dance Dance Dance. New series. Alesha Dixon and Will Best host a dance contest in which celebrities recreate famous routines from movies and music videos to impress a panel of expert judges.

8.00 Endeavour. New series. In the summer of 1967, Morse and Thursday are both devastated by Joan's abrupt departure from Oxford. The young detective responds to his loss by throwing himself into his work, investigating the suspicious drowning of a scientist who was part of a research team working on an early computer. At first it appears to be a simple suicide – until two more bodies are found in the river.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Robson Crusoe: A Surprising Adventure. Inspired by Daniel Defoe's classic novel Robinson Crusoe, cameras follow actor and presenter Robson Green as he fends for himself on a desert island in the South China Sea. (R)

11.10 Premiership Rugby Union.

12.05 Jackpot247. **3.00** Chopping Block. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Darts: BDO Lakeside World Professional Championships. The second day of the BDO World Championships. **5.30** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. (R)

6.15 Channel 4 News.

6.30 Britain's Wildest Weather 2016. Footage of unusual weather conditions recorded in Britain during 2016, and exploring the factors that led to these incidents. The programme features footage recorded by people caught in the middle of floods, super-storms, tornadoes and lightning strikes, as well as a look at how a record level El Niño effect altered Britain's weather. (R)

8.00 Walking the Americas. New series. Levison Wood goes on a four-month trek across Central America, travelling 1,800 miles from Mexico to Colombia. The journey begins in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, where he and his guide Alberto explore the remains of the Mayan Civilisation, including a sinkhole containing the remains of sacrificial victims. They move on to the island of San Pedro and the jungles where Levison was trained as a soldier, before braving the lawless wilderness of El Peten in Guatemala, where most of America's cocaine is trafficked.

9.00 Film: The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1. (2014) Premiere. Katniss Everdeen is brought to a secretive underground society following the destruction of the televised deathmatch. She becomes the figurehead of a revolution against the despotic Panem regime, while her friend Peeta remains a captive of its tyrannical president. Part one of the two-part conclusion to the sci-fi adventure series, starring Jennifer Lawrence.

11.20 The Big Fat Quiz of Everything. Jonathan Ross, David Walliams, Katherine Ryan, Aisling Bea, Noel Fielding and Richard Ayoade answer Jimmy Carr's questions on the past 100,000 years of human history. (R)

1.25 How to Lose Weight Well. (R) **2.25** The Secret Life of 4 Year Olds. (R) **3.15** The Autistic Gardener. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.25** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.35** Zack and Quack. (R) **6.50** Seaside Antics. (R) **6.55** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.10** Pip Ahoy! (R) **7.30** Little Princess. (R) **7.45** Big Bash Cricket Live. Hobart Hurricanes v Melbourne Stars. **11.30** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 3. (R) **12.30 Film:** Holy Man. (1998) Satirical comedy, starring Eddie Murphy. **2.35 Film:** The Kid. (2000) Disney comedy, starring Bruce Willis. **4.35 Film:** Legally Blonde. (2001) Comedy, starring Reese Witherspoon.

6.25 Film: Along Came Polly. (2004) An obsessively cautious man, whose wife left him on their honeymoon, crosses paths with a wildly spontaneous former classmate who throws his well-ordered routine into disarray. Yet in spite of their different outlooks on life, he starts to fall for her. Romantic comedy, starring Ben Stiller, Jennifer Aniston, Debra Messing, Hank Azaria, Alec Baldwin and Philip Seymour Hoffman. Edited for language and sexual content.

8.00 Kittens Make You Laugh Out Loud. Compilation of internet videos featuring kittens doing bizarre and humorous things.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. A chance to catch up with the latest events inside the house as the celebrities cope with living under constant surveillance, with all the arguments and alliances, as well as the revelations in the diary room.

10.00 Celebrity Botched Up Bodies. Leading surgeons repair household names damaged by cosmetic surgery.

11.05 The BAFTA Britannia Awards 2016. Coverage of the movie awards ceremony, with Jodie Foster, Ricky Gervais, Ang Lee, Samuel L. Jackson, Felicity Jones and Ewan McGregor among those receiving honours.

1.00 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** A New Life in Oz. British families emigrating to Australia. (R) **4.00** Now That's Funny! Internet-sourced videos with an amusing family friendly hook. (R) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. The children make cards. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 David Starkey's Music & Monarchy **8.00** Sword, Musket & Machine Gun: Britain's Armed History **9.00** Horizon: The Trouble with Space Junk **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30 Film:** Venus in Fur (2013) **12.00** Killer Whales: Beneath the Surface – Natural World **1.00** The Magic of Mushrooms **2.00** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **3.00** Boxing at the Movies: Kings of the Ring **4.00** Close

ITV2

11.30 The Voice UK **1.00** 2Awesome: 2Awesome **1.05** 2Awesome: Guidance **1.40** 2Awesome: Side Effects **2.20** 2Awesome: Third Wheel **2.40** 2Awesome: LA Story **3.00 Film:** Nanny McPhee (2005) **4.00** FYI Daily **4.05 Film:** Nanny McPhee (2005) **5.00** Minion Madness **5.10 Film:** Despicable Me 2 (2013) **6.10** FYI Daily **6.15 Film:** Despicable Me 2 (2013) **7.15 Film:** The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014) **8.15** FYI Daily **8.20 Film:** The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014) **10.00** Family Guy **10.55** American Dad! **12.25** The Cleveland Show **1.25** Release the Hounds **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

8.00 This Time Next Year **9.00** Tonight at the London Palladium **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.30** Inspector Morse **12.50** A Touch of Frost **2.30** Wycliffe **3.30** May the Best House Win **5.15** You're Only Young Twice **5.40** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

11.40 Pawn Stars **1.30 Film:** Apache (1954) **2.35** FYI Daily **2.40 Film:** Apache (1954) **3.20 Film:** Red River (1948) **4.25** FYI Daily **4.30 Film:** Red River (1948) **6.00 Film:** 633 Squadron (1964) **7.05** FYI Daily **7.10 Film:** 633 Squadron (1964) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** The Krays (1990) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** The Krays (1990) **11.30 Film:** Don't Say a Word (2001) **12.35** FYI Daily **12.40 Film:** Don't Say a Word (2001) **1.45** Hell on Wheels

E4

3.00 The Big Bang Theory **6.30** The Big Bang Theory: Hawking's 75th Birthday **9.00 Film:** Bullet to the Head (2012) **10.50** Tattoo Fixers **11.55** Virtually Famous **12.45** Gogglebox **1.50** Rude Tube: Love Bytes **2.45** Rude Tube **3.15** New Girl **3.35** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery (1966) **1.00** The Spy Next Door (2010) **2.50** The Two Faces of January (2014) **4.45** Mission: Impossible (1996) **6.55** The Jane Austen Book Club (2007) **9.00** The Railway Man (2013)

FIND YOUR NEW VAUXHALL.

From the OnStar personal assistant and IntelliLink infotainment technology to sporty bodywork and spacious interiors, the Corsa range offers a stylishly small car that's well worth a look. With up to **22% off*** selected models across the Vauxhall range, it's the perfect New Year treat to yourself. Visit us between **27th Dec 2016 – 16th Jan 2017** and find your tag.

AMAZING OFFERS ON ADAM | **CORSA** | NEW MOKKA X | ASTRA | NEW ZAFIRA TOURER

Dudley Motor Company
Dudley
01384 454100

Halesowen Motor House
Halesowen
0121 503 0001

T Wall Garages
Kingswinford
01384 288333

Stourbridge Motor House
Stourbridge
01384 447970

VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 12.7 (22.3) – 83.1 (3.4), Extra-urban: 23.3 (12.1) – 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 17.9 (15.8) – 91.1 (3.1). CO_2 emissions: 373 – 82g/km.#

*Participating Retailers only. Offer available on selected stock only for a limited period. Selected Corsa Limited Edition models attract a 22% discount off RRP. Vehicles must be registered by 31 January 2017. Offer not available in conjunction with any other offers, with the exception of Vauxhall Partners discount. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 units. All other customers are excluded. Refer to www.vauxhall.co.uk/bonustagevent or contact your local Retailer for details. OnStar Services require activation and account with OnStar Europe Ltd. Charges apply after applicable trial period. All services subject to mobile network coverage and availability. #Fuel consumption information is official government environmental data, tested in accordance with the relevant EU directive. Official EU-regulated test data is provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. General Motors UK Limited t/a Vauxhall Motors reserves the right to change, amend or withdraw this offer at any point in time. Correct at time of going to press.

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Unwanted Guest, Channel 5, 3.15pm
With nowhere to go for winter break, Amy is invited to spend time with her friend Christine's family. What begins as a nice bonding experience soon turns into a nightmare as Amy begins to lash out at her welcoming hosts. Thriller, starring Kate Mansi and Valentina Novakovic. (2016)

TUESDAY
Dangerous Lessons, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A high school teacher breaks the cardinal rule of not getting romantically involved with one of her students. However, when she tells him it's over, the boy begins to demonstrate psychotic, obsessive behaviour, and starts to stalk both her and her family. Thriller, starring Louise Lombard and Alex Esola. (2016)

WEDNESDAY
The Other Man, BBC1, 11.45pm
After his wife's death, a man learns she was having an affair when he discovers provocative photos of her with another man. He resolves to track down her lover and exact his revenge, but when he confronts the man about his misdeeds, he instead strikes up an unlikely friendship, making him question whether he should continue with his vengeful scheme. Drama, starring Liam Neeson and Antonio Banderas. (2008)

The Other Man, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.45pm

THURSDAY
A Mother's Fear, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A single mother resolves to discover the cause of her son's mysterious illness. Her investigation leads her to a corporation involved in genetically modified food and two scientists who are on the verge of a groundbreaking new discovery. Drama, starring Zoe Lister-Jones, Danny Glover and Victor Garber. (2015)

FRIDAY
Sexy Beast, Channel 4, 12.10am
A retired safe-breaker enjoying the high life in Spain becomes the target of unwanted attention when his psychotic former gangland boss comes looking to enlist his help and expertise for a major bank robbery in London. Crime thriller, starring Ray Winstone, Ben Kingsley, Ian McShane and Amanda Redman. (2000)

New series is hoping to be a Class above

Sometimes it's hard to be a Doctor Who fan…

The past 12 months have been particularly difficult thanks to the fact that no full series of the much-loved drama had headed our way. Instead, we've had to make do with the Christmas special, which was a lot of fun, but it's just not the same as having several adventures spread over a couple of months to get your teeth into.

However, one little ray of sunshine was the appearance of Class, a spin-off available on BBC Three. Sadly, there are some of us who still can't get to the grips of watching programmes online, or who don't have the technology to watch it via our TVs, so we feel we've missed out.

Thankfully, the Beeb has deemed it worthy of a proper, terrestrial broadcast, so three cheers for them.

Of course, it isn't the first time a Whovian spin-off has featured in the schedules. Way back in 1981 we were 'treated' to K-9 and Company, in which former companion Sarah Jane Smith (Elisabeth Sladen) was meant to embark on adventures with the Time Lord's popular robot dog. Unfortunately, it turned out to be a lacklustre affair that didn't get past the pilot stage.

Sladen returned in The Sarah Jane Adventures 26 years later, and that was a success, running for five series until the actress's death in 2011.

And then there was Torchwood, a far more grown-up approach to sci-fi, which ran for four years; fans were devastated when it came to an end and long for it to return. It has, after a fashion, via Big Finish, a company that produces Doctor Who audio adventures. The company has also backed other spin-offs featuring characters from the series.

Class may one day be a project for them too, but for now, it's a visual feast written by young adult writer Patrick Ness, who said of the series before its first air date in October: "There are many, many secrets to come. Many. Like, a lot. But of course, the Doctor is in episode one! That's how these things are done.

"Truly, though, I can't wait for everyone to see the show; we've worked so hard and I'm so proud of it."

Peter Capaldi added: "The Doctor Who family is growing, and it's fantastic to be able to welcome the young new cast of Class in to the Whoniverse."

The main setting for the drama is Coal Hill Academy, which long-standing fans will be aware has been part of Doctor Who since its earliest days – it featured in the very first episode, An Uneathly Child, back in 1963, when it was known as Coal Hill School and was attended by the Doctor's granddaughter, Susan. It's appeared since too – it's the school where Clara Oswald was a teacher.

Now it's Miss Quill (played by Katherine Kelly) who takes centre stage, along with four students who are entrusted by the Doctor to keep alien threats at bay.

Fun and lively, it's a must for Whovians of all ages.

PICK OF THE WEEK

Sophie Hopkins and Greg Austin star, Class, Monday, BBC1, 10.45pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
The Halcyon
ITV, 9pm
Lady Hamilton wants Freddie to use his leave from the RAF to support her with the hotel and it becomes clear she wants to make changed and that Garland is in her sights. The hotel manager insists he's not worried and that he just needs to show how indispensable he is, but Peggy and Feldman aren't so sure, while Charity meets Joe and reveals her plans for revenge, but he refuses to help her, and Emma and Betsey hit the town. Drama, starring Olivia Williams, Steven Mackintosh, Jamie Blackley and Mark Benton.

TUESDAY
Sugar Free Farm
ITV, 9pm
Seven celebrities submit to a diet free from sugar, refined carbs, processed fats and cheap meat. From the moment they take up residence in a farmworkers' cottage, they're put to work to earn all the healthy food they eat. TV presenter Alison Hammond cooks from scratch with natural ingredients, comedian Joe Pasquale discovers an aptitude for pig husbandry, and ex MP Ann Widdecombe overcomes an aversion to whole grains. However, while Peter Davison, Stavros Flatley are also put through their paces, reality star Gemma Collins has trouble handling the farm work.

WEDNESDAY
Hospital
BBC2, 9pm
New series. A six-part series capturing the day-to-day realities that face the NHS in unprecedented times. With an ever-increasing demand on its various services, the programme shows the real-life dilemmas and tough decisions that hospital staff and patients alike have to endure. In the first episode, two patients await life-saving surgery at St Mary's Hospital in Paddington - both need to be in the intensive card ward, but the hospital is at full capacity and there is only one bed remaining.

Common Sense
BBC2, 10pm
New series. Topical, fast-paced comedy news series voiced by Ruth Jones, featuring a regular cast of real British people, including dinner ladies from Leeds, East End market traders, supermarket co-workers, launderette owners and butchers from Birmingham. Chosen for their sharp wit and humorous take on life, the cast offer their honest and unfiltered thoughts on some of the biggest talking points of the week, from major breaking stories and bizarre headlines, to the worlds of sport and popular culture.

Sugar Free Farm, Tuesday, ITV, 9pm

THURSDAY
Spy in the Wild
BBC1, 8pm
New series. Natural history documentary in which spy cameras camouflaged as various animals go 'undercover' in the animal world, getting up close and personal to film their behaviour. Spy Pup is immersed in wild dog life to explore their maternal love, and Spy Penguin records the turbulent action of the mating season, as a male Adelie penguin falls victim to a pebble thief that ruins his chances of love for the season. Spy Tortoise and Spy Bushbaby keep watch on chimpanzees, while in perhaps the most moving scenes, Spy Monkey becomes the focus of attention for a troop of concerned langurs who believe the motionless camera-creature has died.

FRIDAY
Big Dreams Small Spaces
BBC2, 7pm
Monty Don helps Tariq and Sairah, who want to turn their dumping ground of a backyard in Leyton into a sumptuous award-winning garden suitable for entertaining friends and family, and a trip to Chelsea Flower Show proves inspirational. Ant and Jake in Bath want to create a Japanese-style design for their L-shaped plot, but events take a dramatic turn when they discover an underlying problem with their soil that calls for an extreme solution.

Room 101
BBC1, 8.30pm
Frank Skinner presents the comedy panel show, returning for the sixth series of this reincarnation, which sees three – as opposed to just one – celebrities venting their spleen about people and objects that upset them, vying for supremacy. Lining up for battle in this edition are comedy actress Catherine Tate, X Factor contender-turned-television host Rylan Clark-Neal and actor Nigel Havers.

ASHWOOD NURSERIES
a growing passion for 50 years

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL OFFER
50% OFF SELECTED PLANTS
During the year of our 50th Anniversary, we will be offering each week a chosen variety of plants at 50% off the RRP
Starting every Saturday from 14th January 2017
Only 50 plants available per week /
Max 3 plants per transaction
Only whilst stocks last

Winter in Bloom Special Events
Hellebore Tours on
Sat 28th Jan & Sat 18th Feb
John's Garden Open Day Sat 11th Feb
For further information please call us or visit our website.
All proceeds donated to our charity of the year 2017

WWW.ASHWOODNURSERIES.COM
Ashwood Lower Lane, Kingswinford, DY6 0AE | 01384 401996
Autumn/Winter Opening Hours: Mon to Sat 8.30am – 5pm
& Sundays: 9am – 5pm Open Every Day except Christmas Day & Boxing Day

USE YOUR LOFT!

Bison Loft Ladders

Access your loft safely and easily with Bison loft stairs. A "gas" strut mechanism requiring just fingertip control makes opening and closing your loft stairs exceptionally easy.

- Fully manufactured by us in the Midlands
- Free Survey
- 'Bison' loft ladders, only available from us
- Full 4 year parts & labour guarantee
- The only product available with a safety handle in the loft
- Fitted in approx 2 hours (including making the opening larger)
- NEW: Now available in white no painting required*
- NEW: Now complete with "comfort" feet to protect carpets and wooden floors.

NEW: Long Safety Side Handles*
*at extra cost

We also fit loft flooring, lighting and roof windows.
All major credit cards accepted

theloft stairs company
The Loft Stairs Company, Unit 60, Atcham Industrial Estate, Shrewsbury SY4 4UG
Visit our website www.theloftstairscompany.co.uk
Freephone 0800 389 1281
or mobile friendly 01743 761499

WINDOW DOCTOR
CAN'T AFFORD TO REPLACE
UPVC then why not just revamp!
BROKEN UNITS REPAIRED FROM £12

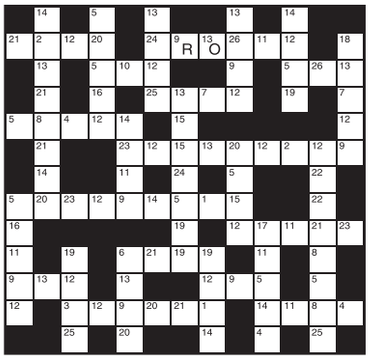
- Old looking handles, letterboxes etc. can be replaced
- Draughty windows can be re-sealed, gaskets replaced
- Doors can be adjusted to prevent draughts
- New locking systems, barrels and keys
- Any problems please call for free quote and advice
- We are a company you can trust trading for over 25 years

FREE QUOTES ON ALL WINDOWS, DOORS, ROOFLINES ETC
Part of the Lifestyle Windows Group
www.lifestylewindowsofkingswinford.co.uk
01384 295855
Building 26, Unit 5 First Avenue, Pensnett Trading Estate, Kingswinford DY6 7TB

BRAIN GYM No.410

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9 R	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13 O	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 E	2 R	3 L	4 Y	5 B	6 S	7 H	8 F	9 I	10 N	11 Q	12 V	13 A
14 P	15 W	16 X	17 D	18 Z	19 C	20 M	21 K	22 T	23 J	24 O	25 G	26 U

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

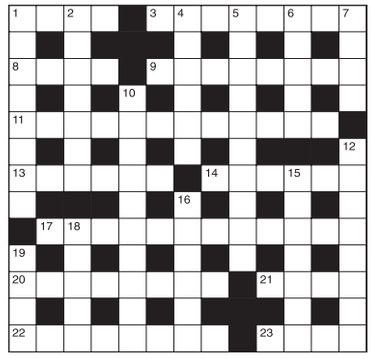
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1& 7Dn. A verge on the road for the team having to travel (4,4)
3. Hire pots for prizes (8)
8. Green on a charge! (4)
9. Gave information showing what the divorcee said (8)
11. The results of a party game (12)
13. Attempt to have a meal inside by agreement (6)
14. Seasoned meat for Sarah and friend in France (6)
17. Another purchase of stock - piece of harness and clothing (12)
20. Geographical measurement that shows a certain tolerance (8)
21. See 6 Down
22. A person without doubt (8)
23. Puts in the right type for the series (4)

Down

1. Legal man to make a recommendation (8)
2. Organise a place for shooting practice, we hear (7)
4. Strange tailless feline creates a disturbance (6)
5. They provide the simple truth (5,5)
6 & 21Ac. Where you'll find the sailor answering a charge (2,3,4)
7. See 1 Across
10 & 16Dn. Becoming irritated when being inoculated (7,3,6)
12. It's not right in manufactured brands to find errors (8)
15. Mean to amend a single bloomer (7)
16. See 10 Down
18. Commend highly in the next Olympics (5)
19. One in a black suit produces a blunt instrument (4)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. Draw (4)
3. Banter (8)
8. Wealthy (4)
9. Bulge (8)
11. Loving (12)
13. Profession (6)
14. Share (6)
17. Cheekiness (12)
20. Remove (8)
21. Retired (4)
22. Rider (8)
23. Carry (4)

Down

1. Mode of speech (8)
2. Satan (7)
4. Scared (6)
5. Designs (10)
6. Grown-up (5)
7. A paradise (4)
10. Speed up (10)
12. Protector (8)
15. Base (7)
16. Layers (6)
18. Manufacturer (5)
19. Craving (4)

Sudoku

	1					3		
5			2	1		4		
4		7			9		5	2
	6	2	8				3	
			3		4			
	4				6	8	2	
3			9			6		8
		1		3	5			9
		9			8		4	

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	1	7	5	8	3	2	6	4
6	3	4	1	2	7	9	8	5
5	8	2	6	9	4	3	7	1
4	5	9	8	6	1	7	3	2
3	6	1	9	7	2	5	4	8
2	7	8	4	3	5	1	9	6
8	4	5	3	1	9	6	2	7
7	9	6	2	5	8	4	1	3
1	2	3	7	4	6	8	5	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Head waiters; 9 Peppers; 10 Reach; 11 Rolls; 12 Elector; 13 Pastry; 15 Dearth; 18 Inertia; 20 Outdo; 22 Titan; 23 Private; 24 Anachronism. Down: 2 Expel; 3 Dresser; 4 Answer; 5 Three; 6 Reactor; 7 Appropriate; 8 Church tower; 14 Sweeten; 16 Erosion; 17 Sapper; 19 Tonic; 21 Tears. QUICK - Across: 1 On probation; 9 Idiotic; 10 Motor; 11 Piece; 12 Emotion; 13 Effete; 15 Grieve; 18 Seaport; 20 Clean; 22 Ratio; 23 Artless; 24 Incredulity. Down: 2 Noise; 3 Retreat; 4 Bicker; 5 Tempo; 6 Outside; 7 Displeasure; 8 Drunkenness; 14 Flatten; 16 Recital; 17 Strand; 19 Odour; 21 Erect.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Of which animal is the babirusa a wild variety?
2. Who replaced Jack Straw as Home Secretary in 2001?
3. Which museum is now on the site of 'Bedlam' Hospital?
4. Which film comic was born William Claude Dukenfield?
5. Which ocean has the largest tidal range?
6. Which flower is named after the French for lion's tooth?
7. What has the same tune as the US's America (My Country, 'Tis Of Thee)?
8. Who succeeded Joe Royle as manager of Manchester City??
9. Which record producer was famous for his Wall of Sound?
10. What are used in the Rorschach test?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Sikhism; 2 Harlem Globetrotters; 3 Joule; 4 John Denver; 5 Osborne House; 6 James II; 7 Jeremy Irons; 8 Buddy Holly; 9 New Jersey; 10 Zubin Mehta.

Niner: FALTERING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

5745268552 gives an Italian painter,
53674 gives an Italian city,
13482 gives an Italian province.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Star Reader Travel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind
Quote: JGRT
Your Chronicle in association with Just go! Holidays

LLANDUDNO & SNOWDONIA
Mon 6 to Fri 10 Mar
Your break includes
✓ 4 nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the Brig-Y-Don, Llandudno
✓ Entertainment on some nights
✓ Excursions to **Betws-y-Coed, Llanberis, Caernarfon & Beaumaris**
✓ Optional excursion to Chester (£7.99pp)
✓ Return coach travel from **Halesowen & Stourbridge**
5 Day Break only £159.99
SUPERVALUE

SCARBOROUGH & HISTORIC YORK
Mon 6 to Fri 10 Mar
Your break includes
✓ 4 nights dinner, bed & breakfast at a selected hotel, Scarborough
✓ 99p bar on selected drinks (6pm-9pm)
✓ Entertainment on some nights
✓ Excursions to **York & Beverley**
✓ Optional excursion to Whitby (£5.99pp)
✓ Return coach travel from **Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge**
5 Day Break only £149.99
SUPERVALUE

ILFRACOMBE & EXMOOR WEEKEND
Fri 3 to Mon 6 Mar
Your break includes
✓ 3 nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the Devon Bay Hotel, Ilfracombe
✓ Entertainment on one night
✓ Excursion to **Exmoor National Park & Minehead**
✓ Optional excursion to Barnstaple Pannier Market (£5.99pp)
✓ Return coach travel from **Stourbridge**
4 Day Break only £119.99
SUPERVALUE

08432 244 217
justgoholidays.com/RT
justgohols
@justgoholidays
Calls to 08 numbers will cost 7 pence per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Calls from mobiles may vary. Single supplements and terms apply

Luxury Coach Holidays
Britain's Finest Coach Tour Fleet

Visit our OPEN DAY
On Sunday 8th January 2017
10am until 3pm
Fantastic Offers and Holiday Show
Free Admission

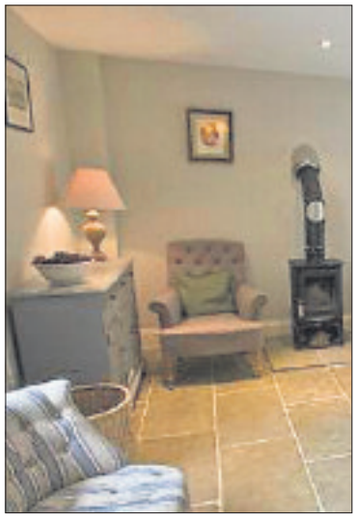
- British Coach Holidays
- Quality European Tours
- London Theatre Weekends
- Ireland

NEW 2017 BROCHURE NOW AVAILABLE
Or view online at parrys-international.co.uk
Landywood Green, Cheslyn Hay, WS6 7QX
CALL ☎ 01922 414576
PARRYS INTERNATIONAL

Relax in the comfortable and spacious bar

Food delights in Hayloft restaurant

Lovely views – Bodnant Welsh Food Centre



Communal facilities in the accommodation

Best of Welsh food on table

FOR so many people, quality, locally-sourced food is high on the priority list when they are thinking about where to stay.

By James Pugh

Cue Bodnant Welsh Food Centre and Cookery School in North Wales, helping the country to establish its growing reputation as a nation of passionate producers and fanatical foodies.

Situated just a stone's throw from the seaside town of Conwy, the centre was established in 2012 to provide the showcase for the best Welsh food such as fresh meat from the local valleys and hills.

It is set in a cluster of stone farm buildings dating back to the 18th century, which have been lovingly restored to house a host of businesses, all of which champion the best products from the local area.

On site is a farm shop, selling products sourced from the surrounding Bodnant estate, from award-winning Welsh suppliers and the in-house bakery, butchers and dairy. This food is also used to supply the elegant on-site Hayloft Restaurant, intimate River Room and Furnace Tea Room. My wife and I stayed in one of the five on-site bedrooms, which boast stunning views over the Conwy Estuary.

The comfortable accommodation has been finished with stylish furnishings, ironwork lights and Welsh handmade fabrics as well as the usual mod cons. It also benefits from an impressive communal kitchen and living room. Staying over is an excellent excuse to make use of both the Hayloft and River Room, where chefs make the best possible use of Bodnant's ingredients.

The menu is changed regularly to suit the seasons and boasts generous portions. Typical dishes in the Hayloft include a 'festival of Welsh lamb', 'soused Llandudno mackerel' and 'peaches and Bodnant ice cream' – all reasonably priced and served with wines from Bodnant's own cellar.

Alternatively, The River Room restaurant offers an intimate and informal fine dining experience with a unique seven-course tasting menu, each course refined and carefully selected by Andrew Sheridan. The restaurant, which provides a fine dining experience for just 12 guests per evening, was the brainchild of Mr Sheridan. It was this we got the pleasure of sampling during our stay.

Each dish was immaculately presented and bursting with flavours, including the mackerel and wood pigeon which I had never tried before. The mix of pre-chosen white and red wines, optional with the tasting menu, accompanied the main dishes perfectly.

Ambition

Mr Sheridan, who has trained alongside Michelin-starred chef Michael Caines, said: "The River Room was the realisation of a personal ambition to make fine dining more accessible to people. I passionately believe that everyone should have the opportunity to experience top quality food.

"The idea behind The River Room is to combine fine dining with an informal atmosphere. There is absolutely no pretence here – guests don't need to worry about wearing a formal jacket or which cutlery to choose."

Just like the food, the service was first-class, with the knowledgeable waiter introducing each dish and wine.

Breakfast the following morning in the Hayloft restaurant was equally appetising.The venue also boasts a function room for weddings and other events and the Welsh National Bee-keeping Centre – as well as its impressive Cookery School, which again promotes local ingredients.

Courses tie in with what is in season, catering for just what you fancy all around the year, with classes varying from bread-making to tapas fusion, skilled patisserie and dinner party dishes. Bodnant's sessions come highly recommended for chefs of all levels – and would certainly make an ideal gift for a food enthusiast.

For those seeking a little more adventure, there is plenty of exploration to be done in the rugged local landscape of Snowdonia, a sanctuary for outdoors enthusiasts and adventure seekers. Situated in quiet estate surroundings, in the heart of Conwy Valley, the Bodnant Welsh Food Centre offers something for everyone.

Star Reader Travel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind

Return coach travel from Dudley, Halesowen and Stourbridge

Your Chronicle in association with Omega
ABTA The Travel Association

NOW INCLUDING 6 GREAT NEW WEST END SHOWS TO CHOOSE FROM
+ 4 STAR HOTEL WITH FULL ENGLISH BREAKFAST
+ A THEATRE TICKET TO A SHOW OF YOUR CHOOSING
+ RETURN COACH TRAVEL

LONDON THEATRE
Choose a top West End show from our fabulous selection...

42nd Street, Aladdin, An American in Paris, Beautiful, Dreamgirls, Half a Sixpence, Jersey Boys, Les Misérables, Mamma Mia!, Matilda, Motown, The Phantom of the Opera, School of Rock, Stomp, The Girls, The Lion King, Wicked and more...!

Saturday Night London Theatre
2 days, by coach from £149.95pp
Selected Saturday departures until July 2017
Quote Code: CNF505
Price Includes...
✔ Overnight stay at a 4 star hotel within 20 miles of central London with full English breakfast
✔ A ticket for a Saturday evening performance of a TOP West End Show from our fabulous selection
✔ Free time in London
View product online at www.omega-holidays.com/CNF505
Single room supplement £30pp. Subject to availability.

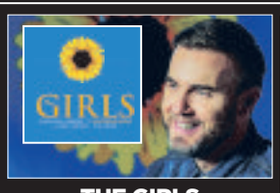
London Theatre Weekend with Evening Meal
2 days, by coach from £159.95pp
Selected Saturday departures until August 2017
Quote Code: FMC296
Price Includes...
✔ Overnight stay at a 4 star hotel within 20 miles of central London with 3-course evening meal and full English breakfast
✔ A show ticket for a Saturday matinee performance of a TOP West End Show from our fabulous selection
✔ Free time in London
View product online at www.omega-holidays.com/FMC296
Single room supplement £30pp. Subject to availability.

New shows coming into the WEST END FOR 2017

HALF A SIXPENCE
FROM 5 NOV 2016 - 11 FEB 2017
With audiences on their feet every night, you won't want to miss this 'joyous production' (Evening Standard), so book your tickets today!

SCHOOL OF ROCK
FROM 19 NOV 2016 - 12 FEB 2017
THE NEW LONDON THEATRE

DREAM GIRLS
FROM 6 JAN - 11 MAR 2017
SAVOY THEATRE



THE GIRLS
FROM 3 FEBRUARY - 15 JULY 2017
THE GIRLS is the true story of the Yorkshire CALENDAR GIRLS, a group of ordinary ladies who achieved something extraordinary. This new musical comedy has brought together the writing talents of Gary Barlow and Tim Firth who grew up in the same village in the North of England and have been friends for 25 years.

42ND STREET
FROM 7 APRIL - 22 JULY 2017
THEATRE ROYAL DRURY LANE

AN AMERICAN IN PARIS
FROM 10 MARCH - 30 SEPTEMBER 2017
DOMINION THEATRE

For more information or to book, please call: 01902 902165
OPENING TIMES: MON-FRI 8.30-19.00
SAT 8.30-16.00 SUN 10.00-16.00
Organised by Omega Holidays plc, ABTA V4782.
OmegaHols @OmegaHols OmegaHols

Council in vow over axed flats

COUNCIL chiefs have pledged that people living in high-rise blocks that are due to be demolished will be moved out within the next year.

Plans to knock down four high-rise flats in Netherton due to funding problems were approved by Dudley Council last year.

A recent public notice stated that it would take seven years to demolish Arley Court, Compton Court, Manor Court and Wells Court – but the authority has stressed residents will be rehomed within the next 12 months.

The blocks tower above Netherton's skyline but residents who live there are still unsure of where their new home will be.

The notice states the blocks will be demolished as 'it is no longer economically viable for the council to maintain them as part of the council's housing stock.

The notice adds: "The council intends to demolish the buildings by December 18, 2023."

Minimum

Council bosses decided that the four blocks, built in the 1960s, were no longer sustainable as they needed a minimum of £9.1 million spent on them in the short term.

When the initial plans were announced, residents voiced concerns about moving out.

Ward councillor Elaine Taylor said: "We're in the process of identifying where the residents wish to move but there is absolutely no way that the council can house all 300 residents from four blocks in a suitable area – it's not possible and both the council and residents recognise that.

"We've had a meeting with every single resident to understand what their needs are. We're hoping that the residents will all be moved into their new accommodation within the next 12 months."

The cost of the demolition and compensating tenants and leaseholders will cost the council £3m.

Designs on new career as mother now half the woman she was

A MOTHER-of-two is fashioning out a new career, setting up her own boutique clothes cabin after losing eight stone due to health concerns.

Kate Turner, aged 34, from Gornal, is literally half the woman she was after slimming down from a size 24 to a 12.

At her heaviest Kate weighed 19 stone but after a lifestyle and diet change, along with having a gastric band fitted, she now weighs just over 11.

Earlier this year, Kate set up her own clothing company online called 'Love The Size Your In' – but the venture has grown since then – now expanding into a boutique cabin on the Bridgnorth Road in Wolverhampton.

Kate said: "It just seemed like the right move to make to expand into a shop.

"Clothes range up to size 32 and include everything from tartan dresses and trendy oversized tops – I want to show that just because you may be plus size doesn't mean you can't dress on trend. Everything is under £20 too.

"I think a lot of plus size ladies feel that they can't dress modern because they are a bit bigger but actually then can, and at a low price."

Kate's own weight journey saw her tackle a range of health conditions.

Comments

In August 2010, a year before having her second son, Kate decided to pay to have a gastric band fitted, which saw her lose four stone by January 2011.

When she and her husband Kieran were married in July 2013, she weighed ten-and-a-half stone.

She added: "The sad thing is that people do judge you on your appearance, and I often had comments made to me by strangers in pubs or on the street.

"Now it is lovely to be able to give other ladies confidence.

"I always struggled to get nice clothes to fit. It was hard because I was young and wanted to wear what my friends did, but now I can encourage others to feel good no matter what their size."

.

Before losing her weight Kate's spleen was enlarged. She had her gall bladder removed, had numerous knee operations due to excessive wear, was borderline diabetic and suffered from backache and fatigue. For more information visit www.lovethesizeyourin.com or www.facebook.com/lovethesizeyourin

Kate before losing weight

Kate in her boutique

Before – John Parkes

New-look John Parkes

Meanwhile, a 72-year-old grandfather proved age was no barrier to weight loss after shedding a whopping five stone.

John Parkes, from Sedgley, said he felt 'great' after dropping 10 waist sizes and beating his diabetes thanks to slimming classes.

Mr Parkes was advised by his GP to attend a local weight-loss class to combat a lifestyle taking a toll on his health and lessening his mobility.

The health problems had meant he could not take part in his favourite pastimes, such as golf, because he ached and was too tired to play. But after losing the pounds, Mr Parkes said: "I was sceptical and a bit embarrassed at first.

"But I needn't have been because I received a warm welcome at the slimming class, and lots of ideas and support from the group.

"I have never been hungry.

"I am still enjoying curries, Chinese dishes, steak and chips, and roast dinners. I can still enjoy my favourite pub meal, a lovely carvery with plenty of vegetables. I feel great. I have lots more energy – and I can play golf again."

Mr Parkes has been called an 'inspiration' by his slimming world consultants.

He was 21 stone before he started attending the group at Upper Gornal Methodist Church, which meet on Wednesday mornings.

He has since cut down on eating takeaways, pork pies and drinking beer.

His high levels of diabetes meant he had to stop every 100 miles and record his blood sugar while travelling on the road.

This became a particular problem for Mr Parkes while visiting his grandchildren in Cornwall.

He no longer has to take insulin or receive hospital care and has since been invited to speak at Aston University with newly qualified doctors to explain how defeated diabetes.

Slimming World consultant Lynn Burns, said: "I am incredibly proud of John and the amazing results he has achieved, especially turning his health around. He is an inspiration to other members and just goes to prove age isn't a barrier."

Knife crime at highest rate in five years

KNIFE crime is at its highest rate in the last five years in the West Midlands, new figures have revealed.

A Freedom of Information request has shown there were 241 knife crime incidents between January and September last year – more than in the whole of 2015.

The 2016 figures have already surpassed the previous year's total and show a 35 per cent increase compared to 2012. In 2011, 217 incidents were reported, which dropped to 157 in 2012. These figures have continued to increase, however, with 168 incidents reported in 2013, 175 in 2014 and 220 in 2015.

Supt Phil Dolby said: "One knife-related crime is one too many. As we've seen in the last few months, the consequences of carrying knives can be catastrophic. We've seen people suffer very serious injuries, while offenders can expect to spend many years behind bars.

Context

"If we look at the level of knife crime across the area we can see that although the statistics have increased recently, mirroring the national picture, it comes in the wider context of a considerable decline over the last decade. Nevertheless, there is still much work to do."

The knife crime statistics released do not reveal how many crimes were reported in October, when the Black Country was rocked by an unprecedented spate of attacks.

At least eight cases were reported in the area during that month alone, including the death of one man and another left in a critical condition, including the stabbing of 24-year-old Mansoor Mahmood in Brierley Hill High Street, who died of his injuries. His killer remains at large.

The spate of attacks prompted West Midlands PCC David Jamieson to ask the force's Chief Constable Dave Thompson to outline steps the force was taking to tackle knife crime.

Black Country Care

Recruitment Day

First Floor - Dudley Library

Tuesday 17th January | 11:00am - 5:00pm

Interested in a Career in Care?

Are you passionate about delivering an outstanding quality of care?

Come along for a chat at our Recruitment Day about the exciting opportunities that we have to offer. From working in the community to one of our residential homes, we have a wide range of positions available.

There will be an opportunity to apply for our jobs and find out more about working for BCHG.

No need to book - come along and see what we have to offer.

Contact us:

W: bchg.co.uk | E: jobs@bchg.co.uk | T: 0121 561 1969

THE SUNDAY TIMES 100 BEST NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS TO WORK FOR 2016

Leaders in Diversity

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE | Gold

PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Detached bungalow with a very well-presented layout

Delightfully situated and having a sought-after address, 46 Lynwood Avenue, Wall Heath, is well placed for local amenities in the village.

It is for sale through Taylors at £264,950.

This large traditional detached bungalow has a very generous and well-presented layout of accommodation including two excellent sized bedrooms. It is further enhanced by a beautifully landscaped rear garden which gets the afternoon sun. Lynwood avenue is one of areas most sought after addresses and is well placed, just a short distance from the centre of Wall Heath village which has a good selection of shops and regular public transport services.

With gas central and double heating it has a central reception hall over 16' with an airing cupboard and a spiral staircase to an office/potential bedroom three with storage cupboards.

The lounge, with a dining area off, comprises a lounge area with an electric fire and a feature fireplace, a window to the rear and a door to a conservatory. The dining are has solid wood flooring.

The conservatory has French-style door opening to the rear garden.

With a range of medium oak-style units, the kitchen has working surfaces, a stainless steel sink/drainer unit, an integrated 'Stoves' oven, recess and plumbing for a washing machine, recess for a tumble dryer, recess for a fridge, recess for a fridge/freezer, useful base cupboard/drawer storage space and wall mounted cupboards. It has a view over the rear garden and part tiled walls.

There is also a utility room with space for appliances and full wall an floor tiling.

The bathroom has a light coloured suite, including a corner 'spa' bath, vanity unit with inset wash basin, close coupled flush WC, full height tiling to the walls, a tiled floor and a patterned window to the side of the property. Outside, the home has a generous frontage and is set back beyond a good sized driveway, together with a paved fore court plus small shrub garden and gated side access to the enclosed side passageway.

WALL HEATH £264,950

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Taylors
TEL: 01384 401777
EMAIL: kingswinford@taylors-

KEY FEATURES

- Large & detached
- Well presented
- 2 excellent bedrooms
- Beautiful landscaped garden
- Sought after address

He's sold

Turn to your local estate agent to sell your property and you will be **SOLD ON:**

- Professional accredited local agent service
- Free valuation
- Local area knowledge
- Adverts in local newspapers, online and office window display
- Registered house hunters
- Solid marketing advice to help you sell fast

If you are thinking of selling, look no further than the estate agents in these pages for the best local advice available.

Three-bedroomed semi can be moved in to fast

Ready to move straight in to, this well presented and extended traditional three-bedroomed semi-detached property in Flavell Street, Woodsetton, Dudley is for sale through Wakeman at £139,950 with no chain.

Its accommodation briefly comprises a storm porch, entrance hall, cloakroom/WC, lounge, living room, breakfast area, kitchen, landing, bathroom, gardens, parking and a garage.

WOODSETTON £139,950

In more detail this home occupies a level plot in a popular and well established residential area, between Sedgley and Dudley. It is well placed for a wide range of amenities and is within easy commuting distance of most major West Midland commercial centres.

The greatly improved accommodation requires a personal inspection to be fully appreciated.

The lounge has an ornate feature fireplace with a marble inset and hearth and living flame gas fire, a bay window and laminate flooring.

For further information call 01384 459999.

SDL BIGWOOD
Midlands' Leading Auctioneers
sdlbigwood.co.uk
@SDLBigwood

ENTRIES INVITED FOR OUR NEXT AUCTION

Advantages of Selling By Auction
- Quick Sale
- Immediate Exchange of Contracts
- 28 Day Completion
- Certainty of Sale

Contact us for a **FREE** no obligation appraisal

Birmingham & The South
0121 233 5046

Black Country & The North
07830 375 823

Wakeman
team
teamprop.co.uk

NO UPWARD CHAIN
121 TIPTON ROAD, WOODSETTON O/A £354,950
•Impressive detached house having substantial two storey rear extension
•Extended living room, extended breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms
•Enviably positioned overlooking open countryside and farm land
•Attractively landscaped front & rear gardens with ample off road parking
•EPC RATING D

NEW
NO UPWARD CHAIN
2A QUEENS ROAD, SEDGLEY O/A £209,950
•Modern detached bungalow backing onto greenbelt woodland
•Deceptively, spacious two bedroom accommodation
•Added benefit of conservatory, utility room & en suite shower room
•Representing an excellent opportunity for a discerning purchaser
•EPC RATING TBC

NEW
68 LOUISE STREET, LOWER GORNAL Offers Over £180,000
•Improved & enhanced extended detached house
•Well proportioned three bedroom accommodation
•Conveniently positioned close to Gornal Wood village centre
•Parking for two cars plus garage, private rear garden
•EPC RATING D

NEW
NO UPWARD CHAIN
28 FLAVELL STREET O/A £139,950
WOODSETTON
•Semi detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Enlarged accommodation at rear
•Two reception rooms
•EPC RATING D

NEW
81 NEW STREET, GORNAL WOOD O/A £179,950
•Individually designed and built traditional style detached house
•Well proportioned, extended and enlarged three bedroom accommodation
•Potential for further enhancement & upgrading to a discerning buyers own style
•Occupying a wide road frontage with ample off road parking
•EPC RATING E

NEW DEVELOPMENT
BREWERS WALK SEDGLEY
Prices From £164,950
•Small development of new homes
•Initial release of three terraced houses
•All with three bedrooms
•Spacious accommodation
•Will be completed to a high standard
•Help to Buy available
•EPC RATINGS TBC

58 RUITON STREET O/A £139,950
GORNAL
•End terraced residence
•Two double bedrooms
•Extended accommodation
•Breakfast kitchen, dining conservatory
•EPC RATING C

NEW
NO UPWARD CHAIN
7 REDWOOD AVENUE £135,000
DUDLEY
•Semi detached house
•Well proportioned accommodation
•Three bedrooms
•'L' shaped rear garden
•EPC RATING TBC

NO UPWARD CHAIN
43 FURLONGS ROAD £130,000
SEDGLEY
•Semi detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Two reception rooms
•Ideal for first time buyer
•EPC RATING C

NO UPWARD CHAIN
71 DIBDALE ROAD SEDGLEY
£124,950
•Semi detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Two reception rooms
•Updating works required
•Gas central heating & double glazing
•EPC RATING E

35 LANGLEY AVENUE £104,950
COSELEY
•Traditional end terraced house
•Three bedrooms, two reception rooms
•Well maintained accommodation
•Ideal for first time buyers
•EPC RATING TBC

NEW
NO UPWARD CHAIN
13 SANDFIELD GROVE £99,950
GORNAL WOOD
•Semi detached house
•Two bedrooms
•Requires updating & decoration
•Partial upvc double glazing
•EPC RATING TBC

TO LET
13 TURLS HILL ROAD £625pcm
SEDGLEY
•Traditional Edwardian style semi detached house
•Two bedrooms plus box room/study
•Extensively modernised & improved throughout
•Side trademans entrance leading to good sized rear garden
•EPC RATING G

TO LET
25 TUDOR VALE £550PCM
UPPER GORNAL
•End terraced house
•Two bedrooms
•Cul de sac location
•Modern accommodation
•EPC RATING C

TO LET
FLAT 8 ALEXANDRA COURT £425 pcm
LOWER GORNAL
•Modern first floor flat
•One bedroom
•Parkig for two vehicles
•Shared grounds
•EPC RATING C

202 Wolverhampton Street, Dudley
01384 459999
wakeman-online.com

Taylors

the property professionals

Kingswinford 01384 401777 | Brierley Hill 01384 265265 | Sedgley 01902 880888

Also at Stourbridge and Halesowen

LOWER GORNAL, Straits Road

FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOMS! Enviably situated upon LARGE CORNER PLOT (with extensive parking, garaging and a large car port), a gas centrally heated, double glazed detached within walking distance of the village presented in superb order comprising; hall, lounge, dining room, utility room, cloakroom, kitchen with clear breakfast room section. Gallery landing, four double bedrooms, bathroom. Gardens. EPC:D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £311,950

SEDGLEY, 'Algar Grange', Off Dudley Road

Show Home now open for viewings (by appointment) with construction now completed, and just 4 plots still available for sale, an exciting new development of gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed BUNGALOWS so conveniently situated for Sedgley's Bull Ring & all associated amenities. Three designs available with prices from £218,500 up to £279,000.-Further details with Agents Sedgley Office. SAP: T.B.A.

PRICES FROM £218,500

COSELEY, Crowesbridge Mews

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Fantastically well presented detached home with central heating & double glazing located in popular cul-de-sac. THREE BEDROOM property is tastefully extended & benefits from porch, hallway, breakfast-kitchen, utility room, open-plan lounge, sunroom, bathroom, master bedroom with ensuite, garage/ storage, garden, driveway. EPC:C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £209,950

DUDLEY, Vanborough Walk, London Heights

A SUPERBLY PRESENTED and EXTENDED family home located on the popular London Heights development in Dudley. Benefiting from double glazing and gas central heating this property also boasts, entrance porch, through lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, attractive bathroom, with enclosed rear garden and drive to front. Viewing is highly recommended. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £179,950

SEDGLEY, Dingle View

Taylors Estate Agents are delighted to offer for sale this family home situated on the much sought after Dingle View in Sedgley. Benefiting from double glazing and central heating as well as corner position, this property also boasts porch, hall, living room, kitchen-diner, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom. Front and rear gardens, detached garage with driveway. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £177,000

LOWER GORNAL , Wallows Wood

A conscientiously maintained recently redecorated and recarpteded freehold gas centrally heated (recent boiler) and UPVC double glazed semi detached in popular cul-de-sac within walking distance of so many amenities. Accommodation provides entrance porch, reception hall, 24'6" through living/ dining room (previously separate rooms), kitchen, utility, three bedrooms, upgraded bathroom with white suite, garage, garden. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £175,000

LOWER GORNAL, Winscar Croft

Deceptively spacious and well appointed, this ideal family home is situated on a quiet cul-de-sac location in Lower Gornal, Dudley. Benefiting from central heating and double glazing this modern semi also boasts, entrance hall, fitted-kitchen, lounge-diner, conservatory, store room/ utility, THREE BEDROOMS, ensuite to master, driveway, landscaped rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £169,950

LOWER GORNAL , Linley Grove

NO UPWARD CHAIN - A conscientiously maintained UPVC double glazed and gas centrally heated semi detached offering further potential set in short favoured cul-de-sac convenient for so many amenities. Accommodation provides entrance porch, reception hall, 23ft through living/dining room (patio doors to garden), kitchen, pantry, three bedrooms, bathroom. Lengthy drive, brick garage, delightful sheltered rear garden orientated to the South East. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £165,000

LOWER GORNAL, The Straits

EXCEPTIONALLY STYLISH gas centrally heated double glazed semi detached 'miners cottage' that has been significantly modernised in recent years carefully retaining many fine period features. Situated in favoured/convenient district comprising; hallway, lounge with cast 'living flame' fireplace, store, refitted kitchen and a CONSERVATORY beyond. Two bedrooms (principle with an extensive range of built in units) bathroom. Potential parking LENGTHY REAR GARDEN. EPC: E SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £142,500

SEDGLEY, 3, Ettymore Road

Immediate walking distance of the Bull Ring; Gas centrally heated, double glazed two double bedroom home nearing completion to first quality specification to include hallway, cloakroom, kitchen (granite work surfaces & various integrated appliances), living/dining room, two bedrooms (one with wardrobe), bathroom, garden, parking to foregarden. EPC: B SEDGLEY

PRICE: £142,500

SEDGLEY, Whitesmith Close

WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF BULLRING! Gas centrally heated & double glazed first floor apartment forming part of development overseen by the Accord Housing Association for residents aged 55 plus with visiting warden facility comprising; front door approach (with stair lift) to the first floor landing, lounge, kitchen, inner hallway, two bedrooms, shower room. Communal grounds, allocated parking. EPC:C SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £134,950

GORNAL WOOD, Bank Road

EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS! A modernised, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed traditional style end terrace offering further potential within walking distance of the village and all associated amenities and briefly comprises; entrance hallway (useful cellar), two living rooms, spacious 16'7" kitchen (with double French doors out to the garden). Three bedrooms, bathroom. Garden. EPC: E SEDGLEY

New price WAS £134,950...NOW £130,000

UPPER GORNAL, Eve Lane

A fantastically presented traditional semi-detached property situated in the popular Upper Gornal area. It consists of entrance hall, well-appointed lounge, fitted kitchen-diner, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, enclosed rear-garden with CABIN, centrally heated & double glazed, off-road parking. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £124,950

WOODSETTON, Rosalind Avenue

This traditional semi-detached property is located in the much sought after area of Woodsetton and is offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. With potential for improvement, this family home comprises of porch, entrance hallway, living room, dining room, kitchen, guest W/C, THREE BEDROOMS, double glazing, enclosed rear garden, garage and parking. EPC E SEDGLEY

Now available Offers in excess of £119,950

LANESFIELD, Pruden Avenue

Modernised, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed semi detached bungalow in popular district convenient for so many amenities. There is a through lobby approach to the accommodation which comprises; kitchen, shower room, lounge, store, two bedrooms. Good sized secluded rear garden, drive (kerb dropped). EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £115,000

UPPER GORNAL , Quarry Brow

FOR IMPROVEMENT - a Freehold, uPVC single glazed end "starter home" requiring comprehensive modernisation set in popular/ convenient district. Accommodation includes; reception hall, living room, kitchen, pantry, bathroom, outer lobby, store, separate w.c. Three bedrooms. Potential off road parking to front, sheltered rear garden.BEST & FINAL OFFERS 12 NOON MONDAY 16 th JAN 2017.- EPC: F SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £75,000

WOODSETTON, Regent Street

EXCEPTIONALLY WELL PRESENTED - Meticulously maintained gas centrally heated UPVC double or single glazed first floor flat in quiet 'backwater'. Tremendously enhanced by present vendors the accommodation provides; hall (incorporating caravan style seating which will convert into a temporary double bed), lounge (with living flame feature gas fire), refitted kitchen, double bedroom (with two double wardrobes), retiled shower room (former bathroom). Shared grounds. EPC C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £70,000

TIPTON, Wood Street

A superbly presented first floor maisonette situated within walking distance of Tipton train station and shopping precinct . This fully modernised property benefits from living room, kitchen, bedroom, shower room, central heating and double glazing, garage and off road parking. it has also recently been achieving £450PCM as a rental property. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £54,950

Taylors

the property professionals

Kingswinford 01384 401777 | Brierley Hill 01384 265265 | Sedgley 01902 880888

Also at Stourbridge and Halesowen

Make selling your house a simple task!

Choose the right estate agent

• FIVE prominent offices • Rightmove and Zoopla • Great Press advertising
• Actively stays in touch • Provides feedback • Over 29 years' experience
• Regulated by RICS

Call today for FREE marketing advice.

rightmove find your happy | Zoopla Smarter property search | PrimeLocation.com

Our charges?
Probably a lot less than you would think!

www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk Follow us on:

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, January 5, 2017

Mid-life makeover does the business

By Laura Thomson

Ford launched its popular Kuga back in 2008 and it saw success in the small SUV market.

The second-generation Kuga made its debut in 2013, The model has now been given a mid-life makeover, with exciting new technologies and styling.

We tested the ST-Line Kuga, which costs £29,554 on the road. This model sits second highest on the spec list, below the luxury Vignale trim. These trims are both available for the first time on the new Kuga.

With a full bodystyling kit and sports suspension, the ST-Line is aimed at drivers wanting a sportier feel from their Kuga. Coupled with the 2.0-litre, 178bhp TDCi engine, this is as close a performance-orientated SUV as Ford gets.

The Kuga's looks are bold and sporty, but it lacks the rugged appeal of other SUVs in its class, such as the Jeep Renegade.

Immediately noticeable is the new, trapezoid grille, which is flanked by raked and intricate LED headlights and stylish new fog lights. Redesigned alloy rims also feature across the range, while two new colour options of Guard Grey and Copper Pulse are offered.

The ST-Line benefits from 18-inch dark alloy wheels and a full body styling kit, which includes a lower centre silver skid plate and black-finish roof rails, headlight bezels, side wind vents and door frame mouldings.

In the cabin, convenience is key, with an electronic parking brake replacing the previous, manual lever, and simplified, easily distinguishable buttons and switches introduced.

There's plenty of space in the rear

This convenience theme is seen elsewhere on the car, with a hands-free liftgate now coming as standard.

Heated ST-Line sports seats offer multi-way adjustability, as does the steering wheel.

In the Kuga, rear passengers are afforded comfortable, spacious seats, with more than adequate head, leg and hip room. The front, meanwhile, is neither uncomfortable nor cramped, and theaforementioned redesigned switches go a long way to simplify the dash.

For what the ST-Line Kuga has gained in performance and style, though, it has lost in boot space, with its rear luggage compartment usurped by other models in its class. At 485 litres with the seats up, it increases to 1603 litres with the rear seats folded down – which is extremely easy to do, even with one hand.

A Thatcham category 1 alarm comes as standard on all models, as does Ford's Intelligent Protection System and a selection of airbags in the front and rear.

We tested the Kuga in the extremes of the Arctic Circle, and while not its usual stomping ground, the car managed surprisingly well. Ice, both visible and black, proved no issue for Ford's intuitive All-Wheel Drive system, which sent varying torque to each wheel to correct any skids. ABS kicked in under heavy braking on the slippery stuff, and succeeded in bringing the vehicle to a safe, controlled stop on more than one occasion.

The sports suspension of the ST-Line gives the car a firm yet agile feel, and as such it dealt well with body roll.

At motorway speeds, the Kuga was comfortable and the steering remained well weighted. Road and wind noise is present, because of the bulky front end. However, it is not loud enough to prove irritating.

Through its slick manual gearbox, the Kuga can accelerate to 60mph in nine seconds, with a top speed of 126mph. Throughout the rev range, the 178bhp guise boasts plentiful power, thanks to the 400Nm of torque.

Ford's new SYNC3 system is the upgrade the brand is shouting about, and it's easy to see why. Housed on an aesthetically appealing centre console, the system is more responsive than the previous '2' guise, and the eight-inch screen boasts more clarity, too. SYNC3 is compatible with both Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, allowing extra connectivity to the car. The driver can control and adjust every aspect of the SYNC3 media system via voice commands.

As standard, the ST-Line Kuga features Ford's Active Park Assist and Park-Out Assist. As their names suggest, these two systems help the driver to both enter and leave a tight parking space. The former is designed to steer the vehicle into tight parallel or perpendicular spaces that are only 20 per cent longer or wider than the car. At the touch of a button, the car assumes the steering, leaving the driver to operate the accelerator, brakes and gears. The latter only works with parallel spots and steers, while the driver again keeps control of the accelerator, brake and gears.

Ford's adaptive front lighting signature has made a debut on the Kuga, monitoring and adjusting the vehicle's beam according to a number of conditions, including the vehicle's speed, steering angle and distance from a vehicle in front. A weather-dependent lighting mode also features, automatically adjusting the beam to help the driver spot roadside hazards in heavy rain.

The Kuga is a comfortable small SUV with a host of handy updates. The sporty ST-Line is impressive, with generous standard equipment, but expensive, at £29,554. If you want a capable all-rounder, you will find one in the cheaper Titanium, or even Zetec-trim.

FORD KUGA FROM £20,845

There is a new trapezoid grille, flanked by raked and intricate LED headlights

T WALL VAUXHALL JANUARY SALE

	VIVA, ADAM & CORSA	WAS	NOW	SAVE
1666	**VIVA SE 1.0** 5DR RED DELIVERY MILES	£8,295	£7,795	£500
1666	**VIVA SE 1.0** 5DR RED DELIVERY MILES	£8,495	£7,995	£500
1414	**ADAM JAM 1.4** 3DR WHITE & BLACK ROOF 25,600 MILES	£7,295	£6,995	£300
1464	**ADAM JAM 1.0 TURBO 115ps** 3DR RED & WHITE ROOF & WHEELS 6,900 MILES	£8,695	£7,995	£700
1515	**ADAM GLAM 1.2** 3DR GREY METALLIC 5,800 MILES	£7,995	£7,495	£500
1616	**ADAM GLAM 1.4** 3DR SATURDAY WHITE FEVER 5,600 MILES	£9,295	£8,795	£500
1666	**ADAM JAM 1.2** 3DR SELECTION OF PRE REG DELIVERY MILES		£8,995	
1262	**CORSA ACTIVE 1.2** 5DR PEPPERDUST 20,600 MILES		£5,995	
1262	**CORSA SE 1.2** 5DR TECHNICAL GREY 25,600 MILES		£5,995	
1363	**CORSA SE 1.4 AUTO** 3DR CRINIAN BLUE 22,500 MILES		£6,995	
1414	**CORSA EXCITE 1.2** 3DR OLYMPIC WHITE 10,200 MILES		£6,295	
1464	**CORSA STING 1.0** 3DR FLAME RED ONLY 3,500 MILES	£5,995	£5,795	£200
1464	**CORSA SXI 1.3CDTI** 3DR FLAME RED 20,000 MILES	£6,795	£6,595	£200
1464	**CORSA VXR 1.6T** 3DR FLAME RED 11,700 MILES	£11,495	£10,995	£500
1515	**CORSA LIFE 1.2** 3DR OLYMPIC WHITE 10,000 MILES	£7,995	£7,695	£300
1515	**CORSA EXCITE 1.4** 5DR WATERWORLD BLUE 6,200 MILES	£8,995	£8,495	£500
1515	**CORSA SE 1.4 AUTO** 5DR WATERWORLD BLUE ONLY 540 MILES		£10,995	
1565	**CORSA SE 1.4** 5DR CARBON FLASH 10,700 MILES	£9,995	£9,495	£500
1565	**CORSA SE 1.4** 5DR ASTEROID GREY 12,500 MILES		£9,495	
1616	**CORSA SE 1.4** 5DR FLAME RED 7,400 MILES	£10,495	£9,995	£500
1616	**CORSA SE 1.4** 5DR ASTEROID GREY 8,100 MILES	£10,495	£9,995	£500
1616	**CORSA SE 1.4 AUTO** 5DR SOVEREIGN SILVER 7,000 MILES	£11,495	£11,195	£300
1666	**CORSA STING 1.4** 3DR FLAME RED DELIVERY MILES ONLY		£9,495	
	ASTRA, GTC, MERIVA & ZAFIRA			
1363	**ASTRA ENERGY 1.4** 5DR POWER RED 13,100 MILES	£7,995	£7,695	£300
1515	**ASTRA SRI 1.6CDTI** 5DR CARBON FLASH 16,000 MILES	£9,795	£9,495	£300
1616	**ASTRA DESIGN 1.0T** 5DR OLYMPIC WHITE 1,650 MILES PARK ASSIST	£12,895	£12,495	£400
1616	**ASTRA GTC SRI 1.4T** 3DR OLYMPIC WHITE 8,000 MILES	£12,995	£12,695	£300
1515	**ASTRA GTC VXR 2.0T** 3DR CARBON FLASH 24,500 MILES AERO PACK + EXTRA'S	£17,995	£16,495	£1,500
1616	**NEW ASTRA SRI NAV 1.0T** 5DR OLYMPIC WHITE 7,500 MILES	£13,495	£12,995	£500
1363	**MERIVA SE 1.4T** 5DR CRINIAN BLUE 3,700 MILES ONLY		£8,795	

		WAS	NOW	SAVE
1515	**MERIVA LIFE 1.4** 5DR ASTEROID GREY 26,500 MILES PARK ASSIST		£7,995	
1515	**MERIVA TECHLINE 1.6CDTI** 5DR POWER RED 11,300 MILES PARK ASSIST		£9,995	
1414	**ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV 1.8** 5DR TECHNICAL GREY 13,150 MILES	£8,495	£7,995	£500
1464	**ZAFIRA TOURER SE 2.0CDTI** 5DR ASTEROID GREY 15,300 MILES	£13,295	£12,995	£300
1565	**ZAFIRA TOURER TECHLINE 1.6CDTI** 5DR WATERWORLD BLUE 16,000 MILES	£14,495	£13,995	£500
1616	**ZAFIRA TOURER ENERGY NAV 1.6CDTI** 5DR WATERWORLD BLUE 7,700 MILES		£15,695	
1565	**ZAFIRA TOURER SRI 1.6CDTI** 5DR GREY 5,000 MILES NAV UPGRADE ALLOYS	£17,295	£16,795	£500
1616	**ZAFIRA TOURER ELITE 1.6CDTI** 5DR OLYMPIC WHITE 12,000 MILES MANY EXTRAS		£21,995	
	MOKKA & ANTARA			
1362	**MOKKA EXCLUSIV 1.7CDTI** 5DR OLYMPIC WHITE 31,600 MILES	£10,995	£10,695	£300
1363	**MOKKA SE 1.7CDTI AUTO** 5DR CARBON FLASH 35,100 MILES 19" ALLOYS		£12,495	
1414	**MOKKA EXCLUSIV 1.4T** 5DR SATIN STEEL GREY 28,700 MILES		£11,995	
1414	**MOKKA EXCLUSIV 1.7CDTI AUTO** 5DR VELVET RED 12,400 MILES		£12,995	
1414	**MOKKA SE 1.7CDTI** 5DR ORANGE ROCK 33,100 MILES	£12,995	£11,995	£1,000
1515	**MOKKA SE 1.4T AUTO** 5DR VELVET RED 11,600 MILES	£13,695	£13,295	£400
1515	**MOKKA EXCLUSIV 1.6** 5DR OLYMPIC WHITE 7,400 MILES		£12,495	
1565	**MOKKA TECHLINE 1.6** 5DR ORANGE ROCK 9,400 MILES		£12,995	
1565	**MOKKA TECHLINE 1.6** 5DR VELVET RED 11,200 MILES		£12,995	
1363	**ANTARA DIAMOND 2.2CDTI** 5DR OLYMPIC WHITE 38,600 MILES		£11,995	
1565	**ANTARA SE NAV 2.2CDTI AWD** OLYMPIC WHITE 8,900 MILES LEATHER		£15,995	
	INSIGNIA & CASCADA			
1464	**INSIGNIA SRI NAV 2.0CDTI 170** 5DR SILVER LAKE 21,500 MILES		£12,495	
1515	**INSIGNIA ELITE 2.0CDTI TOURER** SOVEREIGN SILVER 18,100 MILES 19" ALLOYS	£15,995	£15,495	£500
1565	**INSIGNIA SRI VX-LINE 1.6CDTI TOURER** OLYMPIC WHITE 14,400 MILES	£15,695	£15,295	£400
1565	**INSIGNIA SRI NAV 2.0CDTI 140ps** 5DR OLYPIC WHITE 15,200 MILES		£14,495	
1616	**INSIGNIA SRI NAV 2.0CDTI 170ps** 5DR SILVER LAKE 10,950 MILES	£14,995	£14,695	£300
1616	**INSIGNIA SRI NAV VX-LINE 2.0CDTI 170ps** 5DR OLYMPIC WHITE 12,600 MILES	£16,995	£16,495	£500
1616	**CASCADA ELITE CONVERTIBLE 2.0CDTI** OLYMPIC WHITE DELIVERY MILES		SOLD	

T Wall Garages
01384 288333
www.twall.co.uk

High Street, Pensnett,
Kingswinford
DY6 8XB

Award winning family-run business – established 1953
1 Mile from Russells Hall, Hospital, towards Kingswinford

VAUXHALL

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, January 5, 2017

Car is still near top of shopping list

By Ian Donaldson

YOU can't knock Mazda for its honesty. Lined up side by side were the latest version of the company's midrange hatch and the model it replaces.

And both editions of the Mazda3 looked all but identical to the untrained eye. To the trained eye too, come to that.

And Mazda agrees, siting 'minor tweaks' on the outside, amounting to little more than a different radiator grille and lights at the front and a bit more body coloured panelling round the back, instead of plainer black plastic.

Inside, the changes run a little deeper, with smarter plastics on dash and doors. An electric parking brake replaces the older manual lever – but nobody uses either these days, do they?

All versions of the new Mazda3 – available with two diesel and two petrol engines and in two body styles, Hatchback and (booted saloon) Fastback – are now quieter than before, thanks to added sound deadening and reduced knocking noises from cold or at low speed from the diesels.

Dig deeper and you discover Mazda has been clever with the electronics, devising something called G-Vectoring Control, which minutely varies the power going to the front, driven wheels to keep the car tracking straighter, to the benefit of both feel at the wheel and passenger head-nodding comfort.

Without an older car to try on the same bits of Scottish blacktop chosen for the car's press launch, it was of course impossible to know how well this clever tech works. Ditto, how much quieter the newer model has become.

Smarter plastics on dash and doors

Happily, that is no real problem. The Mazda3 in its old guise was one of the best cars in its class, bringing the fight to the likes of the Ford Focus and VW Golf.

And it still is, with a continuing winning combination of good looks, decent performance allied to sometimes outstanding economy and a lot of kit for your money.

Talking of which, the new car costs £200 more than before, which will make almost no impact on your monthly payments.

The vast majority of Mazda3s are sold as hatchbacks, which cost the same as their saloon siblings but are considered a mite more practical thanks to the big rear hatch, opening to reveal a sensibly sized boot beneath.

Most of them will have petrol engines because most of this line of Mazdas are sold to private buyers, who don't reckon the £1,500 price hike to a diesel is worth it for the extra economy when they're not doing business user mileages.

Prices of the new range start at £17,595 for a 2.0 litre SKYACTIV-G petrol SE Nav, which rather confusingly comes without satellite navigation, available for £600. It does come with 16ins alloy wheels, manual air conditioning, DAB radio, electric windows all round and heated and power folding door mirrors.

Move to SEL-Nav, from £19,695, and you add parking sensors, heated front seats, cruise control, climate control and city brake support that brakes for you if you're not concentrating and can stop the car before it hits something.

Top of the Mazda3 tree is the Sport Nav line, from £20,645, which brings 18ins alloys, LED headlights, digital speedometer, keyless entry and a Bose nine speaker sound system.

The two 2.0 litre petrol engines produce 120 or 150 horsepower, with the diesels, of 1.5 or 2.2 litres managing 105 and 150 horsepower respectively. Automatic transmission is available on some petrol and diesel models for £1,200. Trying the likely biggest seller, a hatchback 120hp petrol version revealed a car that feels as nimble on its pins as something from a smaller class of car and which tackled Scotland's bonny braes with something close to enthusiasm, helped along by a forgiving ride and gearchange that might have been lifted from the MX-5 sports car.

This gentle reworking of Mazda's mid-ranger keeps the car near the head of anyone's shopping list.

MAZDA3 FROM £17,595

There have been minor tweaks on the outside of the new Mazda3

T WALL - USED CAR AND COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SALE

		NOW
06/56	**FORD FIESTA 1.25 STYLE** 3-dr, Silver, 78,000 miles	£2895
08/58	**VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6 DESIGN** 5-dr, Blue, 58,000 miles	£3195
06/56	**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 SXi** 3-dr, Silver, 54,000 miles	£3495
10/10	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE** 5-dr, Blue, 58,000 miles	£4495
13/62	**FORD KA 1.2 ZETEC** 3-dr, Red, 24,000 miles	£4495
09/59	**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 ACTIVE PLUS** 5-dr, Silver, 34,000 miles	£4695
10/59	**RENAULT SCENIC 1.5 DCi EXPRESSION** 5-dr, Black, 44,000 miles	£4995
09/09	**FIAT 500 1.2 LOUNGE** 3-dr, White, 43,000 miles	£4995
09/59	**VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.6 TDi** 5-dr, Blue, 80,000 miles	£5495
11/60	**CITROEN C3 PICASSO 1.6 HDi, VTR+** 5-dr, Grey, 32,000 miles	£5995
09/09	**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 DESIGN** 5-dr, Panacotta, 32,000 miles	£5995
10/10	**CITROEN C3 PICASSO 1.6 HDi EXCLUSIVE** 5-dr, Black, 64,000 miles	£5995
12/12	**VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.8 ES** 5-dr, Silver, 47,000 miles	£5995
09/59	**FORD FIESTA 1.4 TITANIUM** 5-dr, Red, 20,000 miles	£6495
13/13	**SUZUKI SWIFT 1.3 DDIS SZ3** 5-dr, Silver, 22,000 miles	£6195
12/12	**FIAT 500 1.2 LOUNGE** 3-dr, Black, 20,000 miles	£6295
10/10	**CITROEN C3 PICASSO EXCLUSIVE 1.6 HDi** 5-dr, Grey, 43,000 miles	£6695
11/11	**HYUNDAI IX20 1.4 ACTIVE** 5-dr, Silver, 24,000 miles	£6995
13/13	**FORD FIESTA 1.5 TDCi ZETEC** 5-dr, Silver, 56,000 miles	£6995
12/61	**VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi SE** 5-dr, Grey, 76,000 miles	£7995
14/14	**DACIA SANERO 1.5 DCi STEPWAY AMBIANCE** 5-dr, Blue, 22,000 miles	£8295
14/64	**PEUGEOT 108 1.2 VTI ALLURE** 3-dr, Silver, 5,600 miles	£8495
12/12	**MINI COOPER LONDON 2012 EDITION** 3-dr, 1.6, White Silver, 34,000 miles	£8695
13/13	**DACIA DUSTER 1.5 DCi LAUREATE** 5-dr, Silver, 25,000 miles	£8995
13/63	**HYUNDAI I30 1.6 CRDi ACTIVE** 5-dr, Silver, 15,000 miles	£8995
15/15	**FORD FIESTA 1.6 TDCi ZETEC S** 3-dr, Blue, 13,000 miles	£9995
13/63	**SUZUKI SX4 S CROSS 1.6 SZ5 ALLGRIP** Black, 31,000 miles	£11,195
14/64	**NISSAN JUKE 1.2 DIG-T ACENTA PREMIUM** White, 13,000 miles	£11,995
12/12	**FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCi TITANIUM** 5-dr, Silver, 29,000 miles	£11,995
12/62	**HYUNDAI IX35 1.7 CRDi PREMIUM** 5-dr, White, 38,000 miles	£12,695
12/12	**MERCEDES C-CLASS C200 2.2 CDi AUTO** 4-dr, Blue, 47,000 miles	£12,995

USED STOCK JUST ARRIVED

11/61	**MERCEDES C180 1.8 ELEGANCE** 4-dr, Automatic, Red, 42,000 miles	£11,995
13/63	**HYUNDAI IX35 2.0 CRDi PREMIUM 4x4** Blue, 48,000 miles	£13,995
13/13	**HONDA CIVIC 1.4 SE VTEC** 5-dr, Black, 28,000 miles	£8995
10/10	**TOYOTA PRIUS T SPIRIT 1.8** 5-dr, Grey, 64,000 miles	£9995

COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

14/64	**VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3 CDTi SPORTIVE VAN** Silver, 20,000 miles	£7795 +VAT
15/65	**TOYOTA PROACE 2.0 HDi VAN LWB** White, 26,000 miles	£10,995 +VAT
14/64	**VAUXHALL VIVARO 2900 1.6 CDTi VAN** White, 20,000 miles	£10,995 +VAT
15/65	**RENAULT TRAFFIC LL29 DCi VAN** White, 17,000 miles	£12,495 +VAT
15/65	**VAUXHALL VIVARO 2900 1.6 CDTi SPORTIVE VAN** Silver, 9,000 miles	£12,995 +VAT
13/63	**FORD RANGER 2.2 TDCi DOUBLE CAB** Blue, 17,000 miles	£18,495 (No VAT)
14/14	**FORD RANGER 2.2 TDCi DOUBLE CAB AUTO** Blue, 22,000 miles	£19,995 (No VAT)

Please contact Craig or Keith
T Wall Garages
01384 288333
www.twall.co.uk

High Street, Pensnett,
Kingswinford
DY6 8XB
1 Mile from Russells Hall
Hospital, towards Kingswinford

Award winning family-run business – established 1953
Motability Premier Dealer

VAUXHALL

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, January 5, 2017

Q60 is a handsome affair and has a first-rate package of technology

Can new Q60 help push brand in right direction?

By James Parker

The Q60 is an all-new model, taking the Q50 saloon as a base and turning it into a rather pleasant coupe.

It's not Infiniti's first attempt at a car of this type, with the company bringing the G37 to our shores as it launched as a UK brand – but the chances are, you'll almost never have seen one. The company hopes the Q60 will be somewhat more visible.

The car itself is a pretty handsome affair. There's more than a hint of the Mercedes-Benz C-Class Coupe from some angles, but by and large it sticks to the concept car forms that Infiniti has been bringing to motor shows for the past few years.

However, the brand has an image problem overall. It sells in such small volumes that there's almost no brand awareness (despite sponsoring the Red Bull F1 team), and those who are familiar with it know it as a premium arm of the Nissan brand.

Ultimately this is a two-door coupe. It may be based on a reasonably large vehicle, but when the rear doors go and the roofline plunges, you lose a lot of space in the back. There are seats there, but they are a token affair suitable for very young children – only the huge doors and folding seatbacks means accessing them with young children is a challenge. You might be happy if you do get your kids in the back though, as when it comes to safety, Infiniti has got it sorted. Technology

There are rear seats but only suitable for toddlers

such as forward emergency braking, forward collision warning, lane departure and a speed limiter are standard across the range, while there's a tech pack that adds adaptive cruise, adaptive lights, rear collision prevention and so on. At times, with all of the assists turned on, it's almost like being in an autonomous car – and it's supernaturally good at spotting things around corners.

For now, there are two power options. The smaller version is a two-litre, four-cylinder, turbocharged petrol, producing 208bhp and driving the rear wheels. This is good for a combined economy figure of 41.5mpg and 156g/km CO_2, while performance figures stand at 0-60mph in 7.1s and a top speed of 146mph.

The car was designed, though, around the new three-litre, V6 twin turbo. This 399bhp engine drives all four wheels and slashes well over two seconds off the acceleration time – standing at 4.8s to 60mph – with a 155mph top speed. Economy suffers a little, with 31.0mpg combined (though on our test it was nearer to 23mpg) and 208g/km CO_2 emissions.

Both engines drive a seven-speed automatic gearbox, with a traditional torque-convertor set-up.

There's a distinctly odd sensation when you drive the Q60 and it's all down to the fact the steering wheel isn't actually attached to the steering. Infiniti uses a drive-by-wire system which takes the inputs from the steering wheel and sends them electronically to the steering rack. There is, in fact, still an old mechanical steering system but this is only a back-up in case of the electrical system failing (which Infiniti tells us has never happened).

It has more than a few benefits. The steering can be as light or as heavy as you want it to be, has absolutely no central deadzone and doesn't feed back awful road surfaces through to your hands, making for a relaxed long-distance drive that is sporty and direct at the touch of a button.

However, it also means there's not a great deal by way of steering feedback, so drivers who like to feel the road through their fingertips will not find much joy. Despite this, the Q60 is a pretty sharp handler when the mood takes it, with plenty of grip available.

Considering the equipment on offer right from the very beginning, the Q60 is a keenly priced vehicle. For most buyers, what it has as standard on the £33,990 entry-level Q60 2.0t Premium is exactly what you'd want – leather seats, heated in the front with electric adjusting and heated wing mirrors, satellite navigation, DAB radio, cruise control, reverse parking cameras and LED daytime lights, tail lights and fog lights.

To spec a rival to the same level will set you back more and, better still, projections put the three-year retained value above the BMW and Audi options at 47 per cent.

Oak Garage .co.uk

Happy New Year

Oak Garage your local RAC Approved Dealer.

Our Low Mileage Selection

13	Vauxhall Meriva 1.4T 16V Exclusiv Auto Brown Only 5000 Miles	£7,795
63	Peugeot 2008 1.6 e-HDi Active EGC Blue Only 7000 Miles	£9,695
63	Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi 16V Elite Silver Only 9000 Miles	£8,995
63	Ford C-max 1.6 Zetec 5dr Silver Only 9000 Miles	£8,995
65	Peugeot 308 1.6 BlueHDi 120 Allure Grey Only 9000 Miles	£11,695
13	Volkswagen Polo 1.4 Match Edition DSG Silver Only 9000 Miles	£9,495
63	Nissan Note 1.2 DiG-S Tekna Auto Silver Only 11000 Miles	£9,795
63	Vauxhall Meriva 1.4i 16V SE Brown Only 11000 Miles	£7,995
62	Vauxhall Combo W/Chair Access 1.3 CDTi Auto Blue 11000 Miles	£5,995
64	Skoda Octavia 1.2 TSI S Blue Only 12000 Miles	£8,995
14	Vauxhall Meriva 1.4i 16V SE Silver Only 12000 Miles	£8,295
64	Vauxhall Astra 1.6i 16V Elite Brown Only 12000 Miles	£9,295
Citroen		
13	Citroen Berlingo Multi 1.6 e-HDi Air VTR EGS6 Silver 29k	£8,295
10	Citroen C3 Picasso 1.6 HDi 16V Exclusive Grey 56k	£5,295
63	Citroen C3 Picasso 1.6 HDi 8V Exclusive Silver 41k	£7,495
61	Citroen C4 Grand Picasso 1.6 HDi VTR+ EGS6 Red 28k	£8,495
63	Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6 e-HDi 115 Air Exclusive+ Red 66k	£9,995
63	Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6 e-HDi 115 Airdream Exclusive Grey 24K	£10,495
06	Citroen C6 2.7 HDi V6 Exclusive 4dr Auto White 79k	£11,995
07	Citroen C6 2.7 HDi V6 Exclusive 4dr Auto, White 78K	£11,995
57	Citroen C6 2.7 HDi V6 Lignage 4dr Auto Black 104k	£6,995
57	Citroen C6 2.7 HDi V6 Lignage 4dr Auto Silver 62k	£7,995
58	Citroen C6 2.7 HDi V6 Lignage 4dr Auto Silver 63K	£6,495
13	Citroen DS3 1.6 e-HDi 115 Airdream DSport Plus 3dr Red 21K	£8,995
Ford		
12	Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 3dr [82] White 44k	£5,495
62	Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 5dr [82] Blue 15k	£6,995
63	Ford Fiesta 1.5 TDCi Zetec Black 28k	£7,795
13	Ford Focus 1.6 125 Zetec 5dr Powershift Blue 22k	£7,995
63	Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi 115 Titanium Grey 40K	£8,795
13	Ford Grand C-max 1.6 TDCi Zetec Blue 37K	£9,295
07	Ford Mondeo 2.2TDCi 155 ST 5dr Silver 96K	£3,295
Nissan		
63	Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Acenta [Start Stop] Black 32K	£8,795
63	Nissan Juke 1.6 Acenta Red 41k	£8,495
14	Nissan Note 1.2 DIG-S Acenta Premium CVT White 42k	£7,995
07	Nissan Note 1.4 SE 5dr Blue 89k	£1,995
60	Nissan Note 1.6 Tekna Auto Caffe Latte 25k	£5,795
63	Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi [110] Acenta Black 18K	£10,695
13	Nissan Qashqai+2 1.6 [117] Acenta 5dr Red 27K	£10,495
Peugeot		
63	Peugeot 2008 1.6 e-HDi Active EGC Brown 21k	£8,995
63	Peugeot 3008 1.6 e-HDi 115 Active II EGC Blue 31K	£8,495
14	Peugeot 3008 1.6 e-HDi Active 5dr EGC Silver 31k	£9,995
63	Peugeot 3008 1.6 HDi 115 Active II 5dr Blue 13K	£9,295
62	Peugeot 5008 1.6 e-HDi 112 Allure EGC Grey 25k	£10,495
63	Peugeot 5008 1.6 HDi 115 Allure Blue 45k	£9,995
61	Peugeot 508 1.6 HDi 112 SR 4dr Blue 66k	£5,795
Seat		
63	Seat Altea XI 1.6 TDI CR SE Copa DSG White 46k	£7,995
63	Seat Ibiza 1.2 TSI SE 5dr DSG Silver 21K	£7,495
62	Seat Leon 1.6 TDI CR SE Copa 5dr DSG Silver 19K	£8,795
Vauxhall		
13	Vauxhall Astra 1.6i 16V SRi Silver 35k	£7,295
63	Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi 16V SRi Est Grey 24k	£8,495
14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SXi 5dr [AC] Brown 20K	£6,295
14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 SRi 5dr [AC] Red 61K	£5,995
63	Vauxhall Meriva 1.4T 16V Exclusiv 5dr Auto Silver 13k	£7,795
60	Vauxhall Meriva 1.7 CDTi 16V [130] SE Silver 32k	£5,995
63	Vauxhall Zafira 1.7 CDTi ecoFLEX Design Nav Silver 40k	£7,995
Others		
61	Chevrolet Spark 1.2i LT 5dr Blue 78k	£2,595
05	Chrysler Grand Voyager 2.8 CRD Limited XS Auto Grey 56k	£4,495
60	Honda Accord 2.0 i-VTEC EX 4dr Auto Silver 36K	£9,995
11	Honda Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC EX 5dr CVT Brown 21k	£7,795
61	Hyundai IX20 1.4 Blue Drive Active Blue 20K	£6,295
60	Kia Rio 1.5 CRDi 2 5dr Silver 105K	£2,795
04	Kia Sorento 2.5 CRDi XS 5dr Auto Silver	£2,795
58	Lexus Is 5.0 V8 IS F Auto Red 58k	£19,995
11	Renault Scenic 1.5 dCi 110 Dynam TomTom EDC Bronze 37k	£6,995
63	Skoda Fabia 1.2 TSI 105 SE DSG Blue 27K	£7,495
63	Skoda Yeti 1.2 TSI S 5dr Bronze 24k	£9,495
63	Suzuki Swift 1.2 SZ4 5dr Auto Silver 28K	£7,495
14	Toyota Yaris 1.33 VVT-i Trend White 19K	£7,995
64	Volkswagen Golf 2.0 TDI GTD DSG White 17K	£19,495
63	Volvo V40 D2 Cross Country SE Powershift Bronze 41K	£10,995

Call Steve Till 10pm 07747633329

New Year New Car

- Free 3 Year Service Plan
- 82 Point RAC Inspection
- Fully Serviced With MOT
- Free 3 Month RAC Warranty
- 12 Months RAC Breakdown

Only 500 Yards From Merry Hill Shopping Centre:

Another 100 Low Mileage Cars Available Soon See Details At:

www.oakgarage.co.uk

Unit 1 , Sterling Park, Brierley Hill DY5 1TB

Tel: 01384 906030

Opening Times: Mon-Thu: 9-6, Fri-Sat: 9-5, Sun: 11-4

Local Specialists

Aeriels

Castle Aerials DUDLEY
GET SWITCHED ON
Digital Aerials from £65
1 Aerial into 4 rooms £135
- TV Aerial Installations
- Home Cinema / Plasma TV Installations
- Cabling (hidden)
- Multipoint Installations
- Antenna Repairs
- Aerial Upgrades
- DAB Radios

Friendly, reliable service
Tel: 07954 435402 / 01384 350150
15 yrs experience, all work guaranteed

Fascias Soffits & Guttering

Roberts Guttering Services
20% Discount
Local Specialists
Dry Verge Units Fitted
For All aspects of cleaning & repair call Robert for a FREE quote on
07767869792
We Fit UPVC Soffits & Fascias

Tree Services

WOLVERHAMPTON TREE SERVICE
Trees felled, hedges trimmed, stumps removed, tree reports.
Fully insured.
Arboricultural Association & Council Approved.
01902 892652
www.wolvestrees.co.uk
E: treebloke@aol.com

Logs

Sandyfields TREE SERVICES
Local Authority Approved Commercial & Domestic
Listed Trader of Age Concern
BEAT THE COLD!
LOGS FOR SALE
Seasoned hardwood logs
Bulk bags from £60
Pick up loads from £100
All delivereds to your door
Call Roger on...
M: 07768 392 009 T: 01902 882 115
www.sandyfields.co.uk
EST 1985

Plumbing

NEED A PLUMBER OR JOBS DOING AROUND THE HOUSE?
Give Ian a call
I fit Bathrooms, Outside Taps, Flat Pack, etc
No job too small!
No call out charge
FREE QUOTES
07813 506025 • (01902) 276740

Electricians

MB electric
All domestic and commercial electrical works undertaken
Home rewiring from £800
For a high quality local service call :
01384 660398
07939 503905
mbelectric.co.uk

Carpet Cleaning

Clean Carpets Dudley
Carpets & Upholstery
Fresh, Hygienic & Dry in 1 Hour
20% OFF TILL END OF JAN
Call Steven on
01384 848496 or 07468 031133
www.clean-carpets-dudley.co.uk

Fencing

BRIERLEY HILL SHEDS & FENCING
Manufacturers and Suppliers of Heavy duty sheds/summerhouses
6x4 sheds prices from £255 I 8x6 summerhouses from £595
1" flooring,13mm t/g, no osb boards used All sizes available
6x5 tanalised featheredge panels £22
Come and view before you buy
Unit 8 Dawley Brook Road
Kingswinford DY6 7BD
01384 400089

Roofing

ROOFING SERVICES
One of the Leading Roofing Companies
No Job too Small, No Job too Big
- Gutters Cleaned From £15
- Small Repairs From £15
- Pointing Work From £15

SPECIAL OFFERS
on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters, New Roofs/Slate Tile & Felt and Garage Roofs.
- Rubberised flat roofing
- Flat roof specialist
- Insurance work undertaken
- Est 25 years
- Discounted for OAPs
- Exterior Painting

FREE QUOTES AVAILABLE
WILL BEAT ANY GENUINE QUOTE
Home: 01384 872276
Mobile: 07584 081228

CW Electrical Kingswinford Limited
Domestic
Industrial
Commercial
Fault Finding & Condition Reports
Rewires/Part Rewires
Additional Sockets
Shower Replacements
Intruder Alarms
Security Lights
Storage Heaters
Electric Cooker Repairs
Visit our website for more services
Over 16 Years Experience
01384 278471
www.cwelectricalkingswinford.com
INSTALLATIONS 7 DAYS A WEEK

Gardening

ROWAN TREE & GARDEN SERVICES LTD
*Tree Surgeon Specialist *Stump Grinding/Root Removal
*Hedges Pruned/Shaped *Jungles Cleared/Full Landscapes
*Fencing *Turfing *Concreting *Driveways & Patios
*Plus Much More Call Now For a No Obligation Quotation
WWW.ROWANGROUP.CO.UK
01384 213644 or 07733 226568
AGE CONCERN & Local Authority Contractor, N.P.T.C. qualified, Public Liability Insurance (£5 million) All staff C.R.B. Certified
PART OF THE ROWAN GROUP OF COMPANIES

GORNAL TREE & GARDEN SERVICES
- Conifers reduced & trimmed
- Crown reductions • Tree Felling
- Turfing • Fencing • Hedge Trimming
- Jungles & gardens cleared
- Fully Insured • NPTC Qualified
- Stump removals

Call for a FREE QUOTE
07860 851 017 or 01384 830 384

Plumbing & Heating

STUARTS PLUMBING AND HEATING
Tel: 01384 326360 Mob: 07708 731610
www.stuarts-plumbing.co.uk
✓ Central Heating & Boilers
✓ Power Flushing
✓ Boiler Servicing & Repairs
✓ Kitchens & Bathrooms
✓ All other aspects of plumbing work undertaken
Call for a FREE no obligation quote and for all other offers
Vaillant WORCESTER safe

ROOFIX ROOFING
FLAT ROOFING SPECIALISTS
All types of flat roofing systems
Tiling Work, Fascia, Soffits and Guttering
Chimney Repointing, FREE Quotations
Tel: 01902 560892 Mob: 07952 442017
www.roofixwm.co.uk

Double Glazing

MISTY UNITS REPLACED
Buy Direct from the manufacturer. Est. 1999
Pilkington energiKare energy efficient glazing
Reduce heat loss by up to 75%
Also upgrade your existing double glazed units to Pilkington Energikare, it will help to reduce the amount of heat lost through your windows by up to 75%, lock, handles, hinges.
WITH A 10 YEAR GUARANTEE AND FITTING SERVICE AVAILABLE
Delph Glazed Units
Unit 32 Delph Rd Ind Est (by the tank), Brierley Hill DY5 2UA
Visit our new website
www.delphglazedunits.co.uk
Tel: 01384 918383
Mobile: 07887 520599
BSEN1279

Skip Hire

MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE
Save £££s
All size skips and all areas covered
Same day delivery faster than
A phone call!!!
Open 7 days a week
SCRAP CARS REMOVED FOR FREE
YOU FILL 'EM WE MT 'EM
07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56

Loft Ladders

The Loft Ladder Man
Loft Ladders fitted from £120 inclusive
New or enlarged hatches
T & G Flooring, Lighting
Call Luke on
07779 118807 or
01384 833025
lukejs248@gmail.com
We will beat any like for like quote
Fully Insured

DISCOUNT DRIVEWAYS
Block Paving and Tarmac
Drives • Paths • Patios
Slabbing • Red Tarmac
Car Parks
5 Year Guarantee On All Work
Free Quotations and Advice
Tel: 01384 79900 • 07583 170190
www.discountdriveways.co.uk

DECORATORS WANTED
DO YOU NEED MORE BUSINESS?
CALL NOW
01902 319191
CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

To advertise your business and reach more than 53,000 potential customers...
1 Call us on... 01384 399903
2 E-mail us at... martin.cartwright@expressandstar.co.uk
3 Post to... Martin Cartwright , Dudley Chronicle, 3 Market Street, Stourbridge DY8 1AB

Classified Ads

Buy Local, **Sell** Local

funeral directors

J.R. JONES
Lower Gornal 01902 880040

DAINTY & DOWNING
Dudley 01384 252772

Independent family run Funeral Directors
24 hour service
www.nedowning.co.uk

1 Family

elderly & disabled

Capitol Mobility-Bilston
ARE YOU ON DLA OR PIP'S!
YOU COULD HAVE A SCOOTER OR ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR ON WEEKLY TERMS!
01902 409929
www.capitolmobility.co.uk

ELECTRIC RISER / RECLINER Armchair Lifts up / down £75. Wheel chair £40. Single electric bed £80. 07950 418286.

MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350 can deliver, servicing available. Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384 255019 / 07831 246292.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2 Leisure Time

caravans / motorhomes

We Want Your Motorhome
Finance Cleared
Fast Secure Payment
Top Prices Paid
Please Call
AEG on 01384 848439 or
Lee Jinks on 07740 895448
www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk

sports & leisure

HILL BILLY electric golf trolley, battery and charger, full set clubs and bag. £95. 07970 872717.

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

holidays

caravan parks

LUXURY HOLIDAY HOME for Sale on 5* Park, DG, CH, bar & restaurant. Child & pet friendly, 20 acres walking woodland £24,995 inc 2017 site fees Call 01568 708 326.

self catering holidays

Saundersfoot Bungalow
3 Bed, All En suite, Sleeps 8, Central heating, TV Video, Washing machine, Dishwasher, Microwave
Ring Brochure
0121 353 1575

mind, body & soul

clairvoyance

CLAIRVOYANT JOHN STARKEY Appointments, Home visits & Telephone readings 01902 334 224

3 Home & Services

furniture

TWO, TWO SEATER brown leather settee's. Very good condition. £150. Must collect. Merry Hill /Wolverhampton. 07746 143950.

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9CT £300 PER OUNCE CASH PAID TODAY
No amount is too small
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft •Lladro • Old coins
• WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY
• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings
• ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items
Pre'47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans / Roundhouse / Graham / Farsh / any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219/07891 713547.
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

COINS, MEDALS, BANK NOTES Wanted by private collector. Telephone 01902 676540.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

SPECTRUM GAMES Wanted, plus any Spectrum 128k+2 computer wanted also any old Crash magazines wanted. 01902 892918.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc, CCTV cameras supplied & fitted. Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

specialists at your service

aerials

ALAN JONES
THE ORIGINAL AERIAL SPECIALIST, THE BEST!
Est 1955 - 59 years at the top!
Recommended by thousands
Genuine, honest, 100% reliable
WE HAVE WATCHED THEM ALL COME AND GO
Call: 01902 885985
ANY PROBLEM SOLVED

CLEAR VISION AERIALS Freeview, FreeSat, Sky, CCTV. Aerials from £79. Dishes from £79. OAP DISCOUNT. Tel: 01902 752036.

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
SATELLITE & CCTV
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857
VISA MasterCard Checkatrade.com

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...
I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract
Steve - AA Digital Aerials
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

domestic cleaning

CLEAN FOR YOU (midlands ltd)
Domestic Cleaning & Ironing Service.
Friendly, Reliable & Trustworthy.
Call Anita on: 07854 163 804.

drain clearance

ALL DRAIN AND SEWER Blockages cleared fast. Call Fast Clean: 01902 736424.

electrical services

A BARGAIN PRICED house re-wire, fuseboards etc. Grahams Electrical. 01902 842739, 07783 471949.

ALL HOME ELECTRICS NAPIT registered. Fully insured. For a free quote call 07583 320318.

fencing

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL
PORTWAY FENCING

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...
"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representative and I would recommend them to anyone!"
Michael - Portway Fencing.
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards £695
HEAVY DUTY PANELS SUPPLIED AND FITTED
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

gardening services

For all your Patio's, Turfing, Decking, treework and Root grinding...
Prestwood FENCING & LANDSCAPING
Prestwood Cave Nurseries, Wolverhampton Rd, Prestwood DY7 5AN
Call us on: 01384 273586 or 07947 879403 or visit www.prestwoodfencing.co.uk for more details

gas fitting

GAS SERVICES
• Boilers • Cookers
• Fires • Gas Checks
• Landlord Certificates
• Gas Leaks Traced
Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

A BOILER BREAKDOWN, COOKER, FIRE, FITTED-SERVICED-REPAIRED
Landlord certs.
All areas covered.
J&E Heating.
Call John:
01902 562664 /07969 687832

handyman services

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed, Most trades covered, References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 6010479

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...
I average around 1 to 2 phone calls a day from customers as a direct result of my Classified Advertising. I am very happy with my response levels.
Mr Causer.
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327**

YMCA REQUIRE FURNITURE Free Collection. Telephone 01384 231714 for details.

oven cleaning

AAA OVEN CLEANING, Ovens, Hobs, Aga / Range / Micro / Extractors. 01902 689418 / 07910 921736

painters / decorators

CALL M & B DECORATORS
City & Guilds
No job too small
Free Quote
01902 494555

A PROFESSIONAL DECORATING service by RC Decorating. Free competitive quotes: 07773 025880.

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional
Female Painters & Decorators
Attention to detail, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
01384 287577 or 07812 484194
www.love-2-wallpaper.co.uk

C I PAINTING & DECORATING Over 30 yrs experience.City & Guilds approved. Free Quotes. 07890 879 892 01902 650716.

C&D DECORATING City & Guilds / Wallpapering. Tiling and Flooring. Free quotes, call 07973 286288.

INTERIOR PAINTER AND DECORATOR Friendly and reliable, clean and tidy.Call Deb 01384 829473 / 07502 396385

plans prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

BUILDING Plans: Prepared/submitted. K J Bradley 01902 373248 07792 165767. www.plans4u.co.uk

plastering

DOMESTIC PLASTERING
rendering & small building work undertaken. 40 years experience. For a free quote
Call Roy
07887 495726
07583 643932

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING Services. Home/Garden Improvements.Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE Clean and Reliable, All Work Undertaken, All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

plumbers

G M PLUMBING SERVICES Complete Bathrooms, Kitchens, Taps Showers,Blockages 07976 012468

LAURIE KENNEDY domestic plumbing, no job too small, fully insured, contact me 07901 345884.

plumbing & heating

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL
CENTRA HEAT

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...
We are really happy with our Classified advertising package and the business it brings us.
Martin - Centra Heat
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

CENTRA HEAT
Boiler Servicing inc Free Landlords Certificate.
Power Flushing, Boiler/ System Repairs
£200 OFF/Trade in old boiler
Installed in January. *T&C apply*
01902 845211

Keiron Jones Plumbing & Heating
Full heating systems £2200
Boiler Changes £1100
Longer warranty available upon request, fires and surrounds also available.
For Free Quotes Call:
01902 403823 07811 855231

SJH PLUMBING AND HEATING Gas safe reg, all plumbing & central heating undertaken, Call for free quote: 07855 020552

removals

A & M CHEAP REMOVALS
Local
Careful Firm
Full or Part loads
Call Don:
07749 941319

A SAVE ON A SKIP LOAD Clearances from £20 - we load, OAP rates, no permits. Call Dean 01902 670 482 / 07772 315 165

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

KINGS OF THE ROAD REMOVAL Single Items/Full loads from £20. OAP discount. Andy 07512 395370, Keith 07545 618231.

KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS AND HOUSE CLEARANCES
We move anything.
Professional service, 45 years' experience, DFS approved and we take the stress away.
Please call:
07966 281957

roofing

SF ROOFING & GUTTERING
15% OFF
10 YEARS EXPERIENCE!
Flat, Main roofs, rubber or felt, repaired and replaced, all repointing. Guttering repaired and replaced.
BEAT ALL QUOTES GUARANTEED
Call Sean 01902 829158 8am to 8pm

A1 ROOFING
main, flat, felt, firestone rubber, fibreglass, all repointing, fascias, soffits, gutters. Free quotes. All quotes beaten. 8am-8pm.
01902 722447.

ALEXANDER & SON: All Types of Roofing, Chimneys, Guttering, Soffits, Faceboards. FREE Estimates. 01902 782005/07415 634461

skip hire

A absolute affordable skip
RUSSELL SKIPS
Mini, midi skips
Prompt delivery / collection
(0121) 520 3388 / 07721 387990

AN ABSOLUTE AFFORDABLE CASTLE SKIP HIRE
Mini, midi and large skips
Also available mini digger with driver
01384 237577
01902 405745
07719 671845

MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE
Save £££s
All size skips and all areas covered
Same day delivery faster than a phone call!!!
Open 7 days a week
Scrap cars removed for FREE
07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56

AT M&M SKIPS
Fast, friendly service
All areas covered
All sizes
Same day service
Freephone
0800 619 0189
07904 915016

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...
Thanks to our Classified advertising in the Express & Star we are really busy! It definitely works for us!
Grinsells Skip Hire.
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

GOLDSHILL SKIPS
Bring your own waste cheaper than skips. General, Green, Wood waste any size vehicle. Phone for prices:
0121 557 3346

STONES SKIP HIRE
0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875
www.stonesskiphire.co.uk

tree services

S T ROOFING All roofing work carried out. Call: 01902 884705 / 07841 842824

upholstery

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...
"I am very happy with my Express & Star and Chronicles Advertising Campaign"
Gary Downes - Bilston Upholstery
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

www.bilstonupholstery.co.uk Your suite / chair re-upholstered or repaired. Free Est: 01902 404698.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and microchipped.
Call 01922 412212 or
www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk
RGT Wolverhampton
@RGTWolves

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

CHIHUAHUA PUPPY dog, 12 weeks old, all vaccs, Mom and Dad can be seen. £375. 01902 651019.

CHIHUAHUA PUPPY vaccinated and microchipped, parents can be seen. 0121 453 1354.

MALE POMERANIAN Puppy 4 months old, microchipped, up to date vaccinations, genuine reason for sale. £100. 07836 367201.

TWO BEAUTIFUL Jack Russell cross puppies for sale, 1 male, 1 female, vet checked, first injections. £150 each. 07449 236051.

5 Business & Farming

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES for Small Business. Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

commercial premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

6 Property

properties wanted

A LOCAL BUYER pays full market value and more for your property. Call Rick 07729 297901

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

BLACK COUNTRY HOMES

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.

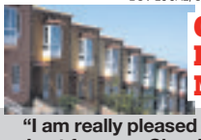
Black Country Homes

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL **01902 319 191**

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

ClassifiedAds

BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL



CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"

Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL **01902 319 191**

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

accommodation to let

A 1 BED STUDIO BILSTON. A 1 bed studio chapel ash 2 bed Fallings Park. DSS ok 01902 686605

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

7 Jobs

drivers

FULL TIME VAN DRIVER required - West Midland area. Van supplied. Experience not essential. Apply to Box Number P20657 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

full time - general

1000s OF JOBS AT YOUR FINGER TIPS

Register your CV today, visit:

jobs.expressandstar.com

WE CAN HELP YOU FIND YOUR PERFECT JOB!

- CV UPLOAD
- JOB ALERTS
- CV MATCHING

Express & Star

FIXED PRICE RECRUITMENT PACKAGE

FILL YOUR NEXT VACANCY WITH OUR BRONZE FIXED PRICE RECRUITMENT PACKAGE

Bronze package includes:

- 5cm x 2 column advert in Express & Star (Thursday)
- 5cm x 2 column advert in Chronicle of your choice
- Two week listing on jobs.expressandstar.com
- 5 line advert to appear in Express & Star Classified jobs for 5 nights
- We will run the lineage and online advert on a daily basis until you fill the vacancy

Package Price £399*

JANUARY SPECIAL OFFER
Book a January recruitment package and get a second package at **half price** within 6 months

Contact **Tracey Thompson** on **01902 319645** or email **tracey.thompson@expressandstar.co.uk**

*All prices are subject to VAT

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

EXCELLENT CONDITION

CHRYSLER PT CRUISER

2.4 LUXURY

2006, black, petrol, 46,500 miles, FSH, MoT end March.

£1,850 ono.

01902 785453.

FORD ECOSPORT 1.5 TDi TITANIUM X PACK
Full leather, rear parking sensor. Reg 28/12/14, 1 owner, FSH, 12,300 miles, low tax, excellent condition.
£11,200 o.n.o.
07500 011142

BARGAIN

FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC
Black, 08, MoT November 2017, 64k miles, HFS alloys, CD, AC, Cat D.
£2,350 ono.
07730 496811.

HYUNDAI SANTA FE LTD
2008, 2.2, diesel, 198 bhp, auto, anthracite with grey leather. Excellent condition. 77,600 miles, economical, 2 owners, full mot, FSH.
£5,995
07973 823945.

RENAULT CLIO
2009, 27,000 miles, 1149cc, silver, fsh, long MoT, one owner, alloys, 3 door, excellent condition.
£1,999.
0787 9403302.

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE
2007, 62,500 miles, fsh, 1390cc, grey, air con, MoT, pas, alloys, 5 door, excellent condition.
£1,699.
07879 403302.

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

SMART FOR TWO PASSION
71 Auto 2008, Silver RHD glass roof 30,825 miles MOT 2018. £30 Tax, RAC Gold Warranty / Cover April 2017. First To See Will Buy
£2,450.
07773 856804.

VAUXHALL ASTRA SXI
2009, 51,000 miles, black, abs, electric windows, alarm, long MoT, central locking, CD, petrol.
£3,250 ono.
07855 023492.

cars under £1500

LOOK

FORD FIESTA
2008, 93,000 miles, black, abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, MoT.
£950 ono.
07858 240742.

PEUGEOT 307
05, MoT February, four new tyres, good condition inside and out, 107+ miles, good runner.
£600 o.n.o.
07515 770277.

classic cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer.Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

driving tuition

Drive All Seasons
Lessons Starting FROM
5 Lessons £50
10 Lessons £89
Manual & Automatic
Free Unlimited Theory
07517 845477
www.driveallseasons.co.uk

Homer's
10 Hours £125! Four Hours £40!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
ADI/PDI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10
07432 458100 / 01562 870050
01384 234954 / 0121 5640090
01902 580065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

AMAZING OFFER 5 lessons £40, 10 lessons £80. £20 an hour there after. Call now 07958 051263.

motorbikes

WANTED OLD MOTORCYCLE for restoration, also old side car and any Norton parts. Telephone 01922 415137.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

A BETTER PRICE for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale. **NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.**

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

spares & accessories

clutches / brakes / gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE
For Example:
Citroen C1, C2, C3
Hyundai 110, Toyota Yaris
Clios & Micras
Ring for quotes on others!
30 yrs experience
ALL AREAS COVERED
Call Bob
01384 251328
07972 169554
anytime

servicing

HAVING CAR PROBLEMS Leave your car in good hands, come to us! **Call BCR Service 01384 259016**

spares/parts

BATTERIES FROM £34.95 Corsa,Fiesta, Focus, Saxo. 3 Year Guarantee. Wolves Hire 01902 746723 , WV6 0LE

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

JOHN EDWIN HUMPHREYS (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 12 Grafton Gardens Dudley West Midlands DY3 3ES, who died on 18/08/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 06/03/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
WALDRONS SOLICITORS
813 High Street
Kingswinford DY6 8AD
T490154

10 Personals

personal

ADULT CINEMA
We're still here, we were the first, the best and we'll be here after all the rest!
The Foxy Lady
01902 490898
GENTLEMENS DANCE BAR OPENING SOON
01902 405522

LADY 55

Looking to meet new Friends male, for nights out.

Must have own transport.

In and around Wolverhampton.

Box Number P20656,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton,
WV1 1ES.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

IN BANKRUPTCY
DUDLEY COUNTY COURT

NO 450 of 2008 **RE: WENDY HEMMING**
Of 16 Newhall Road, Rowley Regis, West Midlands B65 9HA. Personal Assistant for the Disabled.
D.O.B: 19 July 1978
NOTE: the above-named was discharged from the proceedings and may no longer have a connection with the address listed.
I intend to pay within four months from *26th January 2017* (being the last day for proving) the first and final dividend of 0.12 p/£.
Creditors who have not yet proved their debts must do so by *26th January 2017* (being last day of proving) otherwise they will be excluded from the dividend. The required proof of debt form is available on the Insolvency Service website (www.bis.gov.uk/insolvency, select "Forms" and then form 6.37). Alternatively, you can contact my office at LTADT, West Wing, Ground Floor, Brunel, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4AF, telephone 01634 894 700 to supply a form.
Mr D Gibson, Official Receiver and trustee

FreeAds

IT'S FREE IT'S EASY

*Advertise any item *FREE* up to the value of *£250* go to:

bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

Simply click the FreeAds icon FreeAds

*Private advertisers only, no guns, pets, or livestock. Free adverts are published within 7 days of receipt, in-paper and online and are limited to 3 lines maximum.

SHOP with Express & Star

Order from the comfort of your own home
0871 911 7011
www.expressandstarshop.co.uk

Bluetooth Fitness Watch

Only £27.99 plus £4.95 P&P

Monitor and record your activity whilst exercising, sleeping or walking. The VeryFit 2.0 App uses this data to provide a clear picture of your activity levels.

You can record sleep quality, set up call alerts, set alarms or remotely activate your phone camera.
You can even set up the 'Find Phone' and 'Anti-lost' alerts if the watch is in Bluetooth range.

Charge the watch via any USB port with cable provided. Compatible with IOS 7.1 & above or Android 4.4 and above.

Available in black or graphite grey.

D9987 Black
D9988 Graphite Grey

BodyFIT

Exercise Bike

Only £59.99 plus £4.95 P&P

This is the perfect beginner's exercise bike to help lose weight, burn calories and tone up.

A built-in computer monitor measures time, speed, distance and calories, so you can keep track of your progress. Developed from high quality materials, it has been designed to allow for comfortable and reliable usage.

This product comes with a one year guarantee. Features an adjustable saddle and the height from seat to pedal extends from 76-86cm.

Dimensions: H 110cm x L 82cm x W 51cm. Maximum user weight: 100kg. Weighs 11kg.

D6703 Exercise Bike

BodyFIT

Folding Electric Treadmill

Only £119.99 plus £9.95 P&P

BodyFIT

Improve your fitness and increase mobility without leaving the house. The fold-away design is ideal if you have limited space.

Track your speed, time, distance and calories using the display and there is a choice of three automatic programmes lasting between 10 and 30 minutes.

Max speed is 6 km/h. Min speed is 1km/h. Dimensions: L106 x 51 x 115cm (folds down to 28 x 51 x 115cm). Weighs 17kg. 175cm power cord. Home assembly. Maximum user weight: 100kg.

D8829 Folding Electric Treadmill

Power Trainer

Only £49.99 plus £4.95 P&P

Train in the comfort of your home with this 6-in-1 work out tool, sculpt your legs, back, torso & arms.

The comfortable padded foam rollers support your back and protect your hands during use. It's light and easy to transport and store.

- Uses strong adjustable resistance bands
- Alter the resistance as you develop for easier or tougher workouts
- Low Impact exercise
- Helps to improve core fitness

D9506A Power Trainer

BodyFIT

Order Hotline 0871 911 7011*

8am-8pm, 7 days a week. *Calls cost 13p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

Quote 68901

Order online at expressandstarshop.co.uk

Our 'was' pricing refers to the original selling prices offered on our website www.cjoffers.co.uk and in our retail store between 26th September and 26th December 2016. Allow 7 working days for delivery. If not happy for any reason we will accept return of faulty/unused goods in sealed original packaging for full refund or replacement within 30 days. These goods are sold and supplied by BVG-Group Ltd. with whom you contract when you accept this offer. A SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED ON DELIVERY.

RETURN TO: EXPRESS & STAR (68901), PO BOX 87, BRECON, LD3 3BE

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____ Initial _____ Surname _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Email _____ Tel. (for queries only) _____

I enclose my cheque/PO made payable to BVG-GROUP LTD for £_____ Or please debit my card £_____ ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Maestro Issue No _____

My card number is:

Start date: __/__ Expiry date: __/__ Security Number: ___

"Midland News Association Ltd and other MNA companies or selected third parties may contact you with details of goods and services you may be interested in. By placing this order you give consent to Midland News Association Limited or selected third parties doing so, unless you have indicated your objection by ticking this box ☐ if you do not want to hear from selected third parties and ticking this box ☐ if you do not want to hear from Midland News Association Ltd."

PLEASE SEND ME	CODE(S)	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
			POSTAGE	£9.95 / £4.95
			TOTAL	

Billy Palmer, Dominic Price and Henry Hardwick celebrate success

Training in the 'progressive' and 'safe' martial art

Students go through warm up exercises at Erasmus Darwin Academy

Sean Hardwick who runs the Cannock & Burntwood Taekwondo Club

Martial arts club fighting fit for nearly 20 years

CANNOCK & Burntwood Taekwondo Club is thriving at is nears 20 years in operation. The club, which operates from schools in Cannock and Burntwood, continues to provide a hub for training world-class athletes and beginners in the martial art.

Master Sean Hardwick has been running the club since 1997, putting on sessions for children and adults of all abilities at Cannock Chase High School and Erasmus Darwin Academy in Chasetown.

Hardwick, who has trained in several disciplines for over 40 years. said: "Taekwondo is quite a progressive martial art, and it's a safe art as well."

Earned

"I run adult classes and then do classes for children as well, going from beginners to those who are going to a lot of competitions."

He added: "A lot of martial arts clubs are dying out in this day and age but I reckon there are around 150 children I teach, and around 70 adults.

"When I started out, all I wanted to do was teach adults but you get more enrichment from teaching the children – it's really big for them and you get a massive boost from seeing them do well."

Now a sixth degree black belt, Hardwick got his first taste of martial arts when he took up judo.

He earned the grade of seventh kyu and had a brief period practising karate before moving on to boxing – he stayed at Wolverhampton ABA, based at Willenhall Road until 1984.

A year prior to leaving ABA he got involved with

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joe Edwards

"You get more enrichment from teaching the children – it's really big for them and you get a massive boost from seeing them do well."

taekwondo, and has never looked back. Judo was the first thing and it went through to taekwondo," said Hardwick. "I started taekwondo in Cannock back in 1983.

"I started competing internationally and then took the club over. When I took over, there were 17 students. It is very, very popular now.

"I am doing four lessons a night, four days a week and then it tends to be competitions over the weekend.

"I like to spread four sessions over one night and get them all there and involved. I have some assistant instructors who help me out with it all as well."

Hardwick runs sessions on four nights every week – Mondays and Wednesdays at Erasmus Darwin Academy, Pool Road, and Tuesdays and Thursdays at Cannock Chase High, Hednesford Road.

The nights are typically split into four different categories, with beginner classes for children running from 5.30 until 6.15pm.

An advanced class for children will then go until 7pm, with adults of a mixed ability then going through until 8pm. A session of extra sparring and training lasts until 8.30.

The club had a group of students find success on the big stage over the summer, with Billy Palmer, Dominic Price and Henry Hardwick – Sean's son – among those claiming medals at the TAGB World Championships.

The competition was held at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham and there were 3,700 competitors from more than 40 countries.

Palmer, aged 17, claimed gold medals in black belt middleweight sparring, individual and team.

Price, 11, also managed golds in yellow belt middleweight – both individual sparring – while Hardwick took silver in black belt heavyweight.

Progress

"Every single big tournament we have been at we have had world champions," said Hardwick. "The three lads who did so well at the last one have all been with me since the age of five, so I have seen them progress and work to become the top-class athletes they are now.

"Billy Palmer is 17 and we have got really high hopes for him. Of course, taekwondo is an Olympic sport so you could not rule it out – him being there one day.

"The next big competition is the British Championships at the Derby Velodrome and we have got plenty going down there and having a go."

Hardwick readily admits taekwondo is a huge part of his life and added: "My wife's a black belt, my children have black belts – it is very much a family thing."

For more information on the club, visit www.taekwondo.uk.net

Sport

Students still get a kick from martial arts school

Page 47

Eggington's in talks over title challenge

STOURBRIDGE'S Sam Eggington is set to be handed his next big title opportunity after being made the mandatory challenger for the European welterweight belt.

Eggington hinted at the chance on social media as his promoter Eddie Hearn bids to secure the chance for him in the new year.

He took to Twitter to say: "Just had some brilliant news! The new year is gonna bring big fights and big title."

The European Boxing Union have already ordered new champion Ceferino Rodriguez to defend against 'the Savage' and revealed both parties are in "private negotiations."

Rodriguez, who is co-promoted by former two-weight world champion Sergio Martinez, claimed the vacant strap on December 2.

Homeland

The 28-year-old defeated Frenchman Ahmed El Mousaoui on a points split decision in his homeland of Gran Canaria, Spain.

Hearn and his Matchroom Boxing team are hoping to get Eggington the fight on British soil, possibly even at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham. They plan to return there in the spring.

Eggington, aged 23, is back on track after claiming WBC International honours and the scalp of Brummie Frankie Gavin – a former European title challenger – by eighth round TKO in October.

The former British and Commonwealth titlist previously relinquished his belts when he was outpointed by Bradley Skeete in March.

Both fights took place in Birmingham, at the Genting Arena and Barclaycard respectively, with box office takings thought to be more favourable at the latter.

Dwyer comes full circle to join the Heathens revamp

CRADLEY Heathens have added Conor Dwyer as their latest new signing in a big team revamp.

Dwyer joins from hometown club Coventry on a 4.05 average and joins Tom Perry, Danny Ayres, Dan Greenwood, Joe Lawlor and Ryan Burton.

He admits he's always kept a keen interest in the club since spending time as part of their pit crew when they reformed.

"When I first got into speedway around 2010/11, I used to be mechanic for their former rider Richard Franklin," he said. "I used to look out at the crowds and think 'wow, I'd love to race in front of a crowd like that every week.'

"Everything has come full circle since then and all these years on it's happened and I can't wait to get started."

He added: "Monmore Green is a track I really enjoy racing on and I have done so many laps because of the second halves after Wolves' Elite League meetings so I already know my way around there.

"I think it's going to be a big, exciting year for Cradley."

Will shows way to high-level success

Hockey

A CRADLEY Heath student is celebrating an incredible year in which he played hockey at the highest level.

Will Hall, aged 17, of Rowley Regis, is a pupil at Ormiston Forge Academy and plays in goal. He began the year by being selected to attend an Advanced Level Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE) Academy run by England Hockey in conjunction with Loughborough College.

He was also selected for assessment for the u-18 National Age Group Squads (NAGS), one of highest honours a junior hockey player can attain.

Based on observations and feedback from coaches, Will was invited to a development day with England Hockey. Being part of the squad gave the A-Level student access to high-performance coaching in team play, small unit play, set pieces, tournament play and individual technical coaching.

He was also given advice and training in nutrition, injury management, lifestyle, psychology and anti-doping.

As part of the u-18 squad, Will attended the Sainsbury School Games, held at Loughborough University in September as well as the 'Joint Regional Performance Centre' trials, for a place in the Mercia regional team, to play in the competition. Will was selected to play for Mercia Lynx, one of the four regional teams in the Hockey Futures Cup. This is the selection process for the full England u-18 squad, which Will hopes to break into.

During the cup competition he played four halves of hockey and saved every penalty corner directed at him as well as a penalty stroke.

Ormiston Forge Academy principal Andrew Burns said: "We are all incredibly proud of Will. His achievements show how committed and talented he is."

IDEAL WARM-UP FOR CUP CLASH

Barwell 0 Stourbridge 1

STOURBRIDGE warmed up for their big FA Cup clash at Wycombe this weekend by stretching their unbeaten run to seven league matches.

Monday's 1-0 win over Barwell came courtesy of Jack Duggan, hero of the Glassboys' FA Cup second round win over Northampton Town.

The visitors had chances to extend their lead as the home side pushed for an equaliser, but the backline defended valiantly to hold on for a clean sheet.

Barwell came into the match in a good run of form themselves, having lost just one in their previous eight league matches.

Gary Hackett's men grew into the game after a sluggish start. Jordan Archer posed a threat with his pace running into the channels.

His good work in a wide position created the best chance of the half for Connor Gater, who cannoned his strike against the woodwork from the edge of the area.

Converted

The visitors eventually took the lead as Duggan converted from inside the six-yard box just minutes after the interval.

The centre-half brought down Matt Dodds' cross magnificently before finding the bottom corner with great composure.

After soaking up some pressure, the Glassboys became a threat on the counter-attack. Substitute Kayelden Brown twice missed the target before Archer forced a good save from Liam Castle.

The hosts had a couple of late chances but couldn't convert, as Stourbridge head into the match at Wycombe in perfect style.

The Glassboys were beaten by the weather when their game at Hednesford Town was called off last Thursday due to a frozen Keys Park pitch.

On Boxing Day, the FA Cup heroes were shutout by top-of-the-table Rushall Olympic at Amblecote.

The Pics' former Stourbridge striker Karl Hawley was sent off after lashing out at the Tom Tonks. Despite being down to 10 men, Rushall held firm.

Young Tigers earn their stripes

Instructor Hopeton Harmitt with his successful squad from Tipton Tigers Martial Arts

NINE young kickboxers from the Black Country have made five years of training pay off by picking up their coveted black belts.

The squad from Tipton Tigers Martial Arts, namely Jasmin Mae, Jack Prosser, Jessica Gwilliams, Travis McTaggart, Holly Eaton, Manesh Kaler, Charlie Rigby and brothers Aaron and Jeevan Chahal, are trained at the Great Bridge martial arts academy by Hopeton Harmitt, a 5th Dan black belt who is affectionately known as 'Coach' to his many students.

Throughout his 20-year career, Coach has trained more than 30 black belts, including national, European and World champions.

He said: "I am so proud of my students, what a fantastic achievement for them all. Becoming a black belt takes countless hours of hard work and dedication and it's great to see such inspiring and hard-working youngsters."

Mr Harmitt added: "Two of my other students became ECKA Grand Prix Champions. They competed throughout the year against other students within ECKA clubs.

"Beginners classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday and I'd love to see the next generation of champions walking through the doors."

Tipton Tigers Martial Arts is located at 74 New Road, Great Bridge.

Call 07810 348146 for more information.

Yeltz draw a blank as run is stretched

HALESOWEN have stretched their winless run to nine games, but will be disappointed to only draw a blank against bottom side Corby.

Yeltz were looking for their first league win in six on Friday night, but had to settle for their second successive goalless draw against a side with just 11 points prior to this encounter.

They will be more concerned, however, with the welfare of defender Louis Ezewele who was stretchered off on just 20 minutes with a serious ankle break.

The Yeltz carved out the better chances, Tristian Dunkley shooting wide and then into the side netting in the first half and Kaiman Anderson taking one touch too many when through on goal.

Corby's only chance in this period came when Jordan Crawford got on the end of a Tyler Blake cross but shot over.

The second half was very scrappy, Corby missing a couple of chances, including when John Bateman in the Halesowen goal was forced into his first save.

Lee Chilton went close for Yeltz towards the end, curling a shot just over on 70 minutes and actually having the ball in the net three minutes from time but it was ruled offside.

Yeltz's first blank of the festive period came on Boxing Day, with an uninspiring stalemate against struggling Sutton Coldfield.

In a scrappy first half, home goalkeeper John Bateman kept out an early 25-yard free-kick from Sutton captain Danny O'Callaghan.

The Yeltz were unable to find the breakthrough in a drab second period that continued to lack quality.

Monday's game against Hednesford Town was called off due to a frozen Keys Park pitch. They are at home to Buxton on Saturday.

DK tunners trot off with festive turkey

ONLY a couple of DK runners took advantage of the poultry on offer before Christmas in Wolverhampton & Bilston AC's annual Turkey Trot, a five-mile race around the streets near their Aldersley Stadium home.

Each finisher was rewarded with a turkey – well a turkey product. Simon Blizzard came home for the blue hoops in 29th in 31.50 and Jacqui Elson-Whittaker took 109th place in 40.44.

It was good to see a former DK athlete, Malcolm Pillar, now representing South West Veterans, taking an age group prize in the MV70 category placing 82nd in a time of 37.14.

★★★

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford.
Thursday, January 5, 2017

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
The recycled content of newspapers in 2015 was 71%